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NMB, insurance firms partner to cover property

By Guardian Reporter

CONSUMERS can now get insurance services for their property and life insurance from any of the 224 NMB Bank Plc branches countrywide, thanks to a partnership forged with four insurance companies.

The bank which unveiled its bancassurance products in Dar es Salaam this week said it has signed agreements with the National Insurance Corporation, the Zanzibar Insurance Corporation, Reliance Insurance (T) Ltd, Sanlam Life, Jubilee Insurance and UAP Insurance to provide the services.

Speaking during the launch, NMB's Chief of Retail Banking Filbert Mponzi said the new product will help consumers to easily insure property such as houses, motor vehicles and obtain life insurance against unforeseen situations.

"Although insurance penetration has improved in recent years, we still see a lot of opportunities to tap into this market because of growing public demand for



Our clients now have the luxury of getting banking and insurance services and products under one roof at our branches countrywide

the services and products. We are simply exploiting the opportunity to take the services closer to their door steps," said Mponzi.

He invited the public to visit NMB branches countrywide and seek the bancassurance products and services that will guarantee them recovery of property when destroyed or lost.

They also provide life cover for assured people when they become incapacitated to work and to beneficiaries if an insured person dies.

"Our clients now have the luxury of getting banking and insurance services and products under one roof at our branches countrywide," the NMB retailer noted, paying tribute to Bank of Tanzania and the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority for approving the bank's application to offer bancassurance services (full story in Property Watch).

JPM: Why we buy equipment more - and train doctors less



President John Magufuli addresses a general meeting of the Medical Association of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House.

My position is that we had better have fewer doctors with vital equipment than more doctors without tools

By Henry Mwangode

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday defended his heavy investments in medical equipment than human resources, saying training more doctors without tools would amount to wastage of meagre resources.

Addressing a gathering to mark 55 years of the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT) in Dar es Salaam, the Head of State said shortage of medical equipment and medicines in the country far outweighs that of doctors.

"My position is that we better have fewer doctors with vital equipment than having more doctors without tools," he said.

During the event the president announced that the

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Ndugai: Stigma killed MPs' AIDS committee

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha



Our only hope now lies with religious leaders to help the nation in the fight against stigma, as these spiritual personnel command large audiences that respect them

MEMBERS of Parliament living with HIV/Aids face stigma from their colleagues, a situation showing how far Tanzania has to go in educating the public about the disease.

Addressing a gathering of religious leaders meeting under the auspices of the National Council of People Living with HIV / Aids (NACOPHA), Ndugai said the baseless mark of

disgrace led to the collapse of a parliamentary committee on the issue.

The meeting called to address stigma affecting persons living with HIV and Aids heard the House speaker affirm that he was compelled to disband the Parliamentary Committee on HIV-Aids MPs fell out in disagreements.

The Speaker then formed another committee as provided for in the statutes after the previous one got split down the

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NEC gives city residents three more days in voter roll update

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) yesterday announced an extension of voter information update in Dar es Salaam Region for three days.

The decision has been informed by the high number of people who wanted to update their records after the last Friday deadline.

NEC Elections Director Dr Wilson Mahera (pictured) told reporters in Dar es Salaam that



extension starts from February

20th to 23rd, to give people more time to alter voter particulars.

This extension followed a NEC assessment meeting held on Wednesday where it was agreed to extend the roll update deadline for the city.

Some of the reasons to extend more time were due to a large population and people's response to update their

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NEC gives city residents three more days in voter roll update

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information, as an extension will provide enough time for those who were yet to do so, he elaborated.

The National Election Act, Cap 343, section 21(1) and the Local Governments Election Act, Cap 292 accord NEC the mandate to extend the number of days set for voter register updating.

"I would like to inform the public that NEC has extended the voter registry updating exercise for Dar es Salaam residents for three days," he specified.

The voter registry exercise will end February 23 as NEC will not set more days for Dar es Salaam, he emphasized.

City residents who have yet to update their information need to do so quickly to meet the deadline, as all centres will be opened from 8.00 hours to 18.00 hours, he stated.

The updating exercise in other regions starts in the next phase depending on the demand, he said.

On July 18 last year, NEC began updating voter registration ahead of this year's general elections where voters will choose ward councillors, members of Parliament and the Union president.

Regions that had updated voter registration so far were listed as Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara, Simiyu, Mara as well as Mwanza, Kigoma and Songwe.

Others are Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Katavi, Rukwa, Singida, Dodoma, Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, and Ruvuma on the Mainland while in Zanzibar the updating has covered Pemba North, Pemba South, Zanzibar North and the Urban West regions, the NEC statement noted.

Updating the voters register started July 18 last year with Kilimanjaro region and has already covered 146 districts with 205 constituencies in 25 regions in both parts of the Union.

Anthony Mavunde, the Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Parliamentary Affairs, Employment, Youths and Persons with Disabilities) early last year told the National Assembly that four million new voters were expected to be registered as the voter register was being updated.

Tanzania conducted its last general elections in 2015, where NEC had registered 23.7m voters.



Association of Tanzania Employers executive director Dr Aggrey Mulimuka opens a 'Female Future Programme' meeting organised by the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was held chiefly with a view to sensitising more women into vying for management positions in corporate boards and other decision-making bodies. Photo: John Badi

JPM: Why we buy equipment more - and train doctors less

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government was going to employ 1000 medical doctors in the coming financial year, underlining that this was just the beginning. The current 2,700 trained doctors who are now unemployed will ultimately be absorbed in the system.

He said the government was doing all it can to ensure that the working

environment for doctors and other health workers is improved.

Earlier, the doctors listed a number of grievances and challenges which they said was affecting the provision of quality healthcare in the country.

The president said the grievances were a reflection of what is needed to be fixed to attain quality healthcare.

The president said the health sector was a sensitive sector saying the African continent loses about 2trn/- due to diseases.

The government had spent about 59bn/- to build new referral hospitals countrywide and over 300 other new health centres, he stated.

A meeting delegate saying he was leader of the pharmacists said there are

challenges impeding investment in the pharmaceutical industry, among which are bureaucracy and over regulation. These ought to be worked upon, the delegate intoned.

Tanzania has a shortage of 3,460 doctors (55 per cent of total needs) as the World Health Organization (WHO) requires that developing countries such as Tanzania ought to have

one doctor for 8000 people in total.

Research conducted in 2016 showed that more medical doctors were qualifying than the government can employ in the public health system.

Over 60 per cent of medical graduates who were trained locally and abroad have not been employed, it affirmed.

For ten years up to 2010

over 2,200 doctors graduated from medical schools but over 1,100 were not working in hospitals, the data indicated.

While some medical doctors are unemployed, others shifted to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and research institutions, ditching poor pay and unfriendly working conditions in hospitals, the report added.

Tanzanians held in Uganda over stolen govt drugs

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S State House Health Monitoring Unit has arrested two Tanzanian nationals who were allegedly found with stolen government drugs worth Uganda shillings 35 million (over 22mn/-) that were meant to be taken to Tanzania.

Addressing journalists at their offices in Kampala on Wednesday, Dr Jackson Ojera Abusu, the head of the unit said Abel Leonard and Yusufu Kasiano were intercepted at Mutukula stage in Kisenyi taxi park in Kampala following a tip off by the intelligence unit.

Dr Abusu said drugs packed in boxes were being loaded onto a taxi which raised suspicion from the unit's intelligence team.

"The owners had disclosed that one of the boxes contained drugs but the rest they reported they were containing skin lightening cream but when searched, we found quite a number of medicines. We captured them as exhibits and arrested two suspects. As I talk now, they are still in custody," Dr Abusu said.

A total of 257 boxes of antimalarial drugs, Lumiter, Lumartem and a total of 27 malaria strips were recovered and the suspects are being investigated.

Uganda registered an estimated increase of more than 100,000 malaria cases between 2016 and 2017 despite the various preventive interventions against the disease, according to the World Malaria Report 2018.

According to the report, the country also accounts for 4 per cent of malaria cases in the whole world, making it to the top five countries responsible for nearly half of all malaria cases worldwide. Other countries are Nigeria, DRC Congo, Mozambique, and India.

Dr Abusu said the scarcity of drugs in health facilities is because of such unscrupulous people.

"When we hear most health facilities complain of stock outs of medicines, it is not true but such people are always out there to deprive health facilities of such important medicine," Dr Abusu said.

A health worker who only identified herself as Catherine said for such kind of acts to end, the unit needs to investigate health workers as well.

"I am not pointing out health workers as a root cause but most of our bosses; these in charges, own clinics. They steal drugs then at the end of the day we have shortages," Catherine said.

The Health Monitoring Unit said intelligence units are at the boarders to stop such acts.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has an audience with Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi and officials of the Isles Empowerment, Social Welfare, Youth, Women and Children ministry at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Under discussion was a report on the implementation of the ministry's action plan for the second half of last year. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

Standard Chartered commits USD75bn towards SDGs

DUBAI

THE Standard Chartered Group yesterday announced new business targets for supporting its clients as they transition to a low carbon economy as part of its Sustainability Aspirations.

By the end of 2024, the Bank commits to providing USD40 billion of project financing services for infrastructure that promotes sustainable development.

It has also committed to providing USD35 billion of project financing services, M&A advisory and debt structuring services for renewables and clean tech projects (solar and wind).

Underpinning the aspirations, Standard Chartered also intends to reduce its emissions across its global properties by 2030. With an office footprint spanning 60 countries, including many large emerging markets, the Bank will achieve net zero emissions by only sourcing

energy from renewable sources and continuing to pursue energy efficiency measures across its 12 million square feet of property.

Tracey McDermott, Group Head, Corporate Affairs, Brand & Marketing, commented: "Over the past 18 months, we have made a series of commitments which are all geared towards supporting the Paris Agreement on climate change and the transition to a cleaner, greener, fairer economy. We know that the investment required cannot be provided by governments and NGOs alone, so it is critical that investors embrace the Sustainable Development Goals at pace and scale.

"Our unique footprint means we are well placed to help get finance to where it matters most. That is why, as well as ceasing support for clients who generate more than 10% of earnings from thermal coal by 2030, we also have a renewed target for financing and facilitating USD35 billion of clean technology

and renewables, and USD40 billion of sustainable infrastructure."

Sunil Kaushal, Regional CEO for Standard Chartered, Africa and the Middle East, said: "It is estimated that emerging markets need an annual USD2.5 trillion investment to meet the SDG targets by 2030. A bulk of this investment will need to be focused on Africa and the Middle East, which is home to some of the key sustainable development opportunities. The financing gap in Arab countries has been estimated to be over USD 100 billion annually, whilst in Africa this figure stands between USD 500 billion and USD 1.2 trillion. For the goals to be met by 2030, investors and banks need to coordinate and connect capital to promote sustainable development."

"With our unique footprint into emerging and developing markets, we can use our banking knowledge, people, and products to catalyse capital to where it matters most

for SDG financing. The Africa and Middle East region is home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, though we also face some of the world's most pressing environmental and social issues. Our ability to solve for the issues here will have tremendous impact on our 2030 ambition to meet global SDGs."

Standard Chartered has a broad range of sustainable finance product offerings that can be deployed to help clients pivot their business towards a more sustainable model. In October 2018, it created the Sustainable Finance team and has since launched sustainable deposit products in London, Singapore, Hong Kong and New York; plus, a EUR500 million Sustainability Bond, the proceeds of which will be used to provide finance in areas aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals - including clean energy projects, smaller business lending and microfinance loans.

Ndugai says Stigma killed MPs' AIDS committee

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middle, he stated. Ndugai who was the chief guest at the meeting said that MPs chosen to form the previous HIV/Aids Committee had resigned, objecting to stigma from other MPs in the committee.

"Our only hope now lies with religious leaders to help the nation in the fight against stigma, as these spiritual personnel command large audiences that respect them. It means whatever they are told in churches or mosques will stick," he declared.

The head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), Bishop Dr Frederick Shoo admitted that essentially 90 percent of the 60 million Tanzanians are members of one faith or another, which implies that directives relayed through religious bodies are bound to be effective.

NACOPHA chairperson Leticia Morici Kapela said at least 1.6 million people are affected in Tanzania but HIV is not the problem, insisting that the real drawback is sidelining victims through stigma.

The Arusha meeting takes place in line with the UNAIDS target of ensuring the 95-95-95 goal before 2030.

That target means 95 percent in treatment for suppression of viral loads, 95 percent knowledge of HIV status for those affected and 95 percent reduction of new infections.

Zawadi Mahenge, a victim of stigma, said she was harassed by close relatives including her mother and her mother-in-law.

NACOPHA is a nationally recognized organ coordinating efforts of PLHIV, the highest body and voice representing all groups and organizations or individual PLHIV countrywide.



With some let-up in torrential rains, efforts to raise the level of roads inside the Ngorongoro Crater have begun, as captured earlier this week. The rains had swamped most of the wildlife-rich basin, making it difficult for vehicles to move around. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

Culverts to be built along waterlogged Ngorongoro Crater road infrastructure

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Karatu

FOR the first time, culverts will be built in some parts of the Ngorongoro Crater where caldera roads cross water-logged grounds as torrential rains pound on.

The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority Prof Abiud Kaswamila yesterday inspected the ongoing roads repairing activities inside the crater and is on view that, the progress is promising and the damaged parts will be sealed before the anticipated monsoon rains predicted in March.

"We have to be careful in working on the crater roads because this is a conservation area which is ecologically sensitive," explained the Commissioner of Conservation at NCAA, Dr Freddy Manongi who accompanied the Board Chairman down the caldera amid pounding rains.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Khamis Kigwangalla is expected to camp at NCAA and inspect the crater roads as well as all tracks within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and those leading to Serengeti National Park this weekend.

Previously, the Permanent Secretary, Prof Adolf Mkenda toured the area and assured the management that, the government will mobilize funds to ensure that all damaged parts of the

conservation roads are repaired.

While some tour drivers complained of the poor conditions of the rain damaged roads, most foreign visitors said it was part of the adventure and in fact, the experience added thrill to their rides during game drives inside the crater.

And while most experts prefer the roads be left alone so as not to interfere with nature, the authority at NCAA believe that, it is important to raise the levels of the crater roads in some parts because a number of tour vans have been getting stuck in the wilderness.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area is the country's most visited destination, attracting more than 700,000 tourists per year; this figure accounts for over 50 percent of all leisure visitors coming to Tanzania annually.

Generating over 157bn/- annually, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area is also the nation's leading cash cow, which means come rain or shine, the authority wants the roads inside this financial oyster are kept in good condition.

Most parts of the country have been receiving more than average rainfall, with the precipitation going beyond normal weather season, causing floods across the nation. The Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has warned that more downpours should be experienced from next month all the way to next June.

Modern neurological surgery labs to start functioning next month - MOI

By Guardian Reporter

THE Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) is finalizing construction of modern neurological surgery labs to start performing brain surgery without opening the skull in March this year.

MOI Executive Director Dr Respicious Boniface made the statement yesterday when speaking at the opening of the national doctor's day celebration in Dar es Salaam.

The event which was graced by President John Magufuli was also attended

by Deputy Health Minister, Dr Faustine Ndugulile, Natural Resources and Tourism Minister, Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla and other government officials.

Dr Boniface said the move follows government's commitment to improve health services whereas it has provided 7.9bn/- for procurement and installation of the brain surgery lab machines.

The technique involves passing a tube (catheter) through the groin functional area between the abdomen and thigh on either side of the pubic bone up to the artery containing the brain aneurysm.

"We expect the neurological surgery lab to be completed by March 15 this year. We have procured all the needed equipment and the contractor is finalising installation", said Dr Boniface noting completion of the lab will make Tanzania among few African countries offering the treatment.

Earlier, Prof Lawrence Museru, Executive Director of Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) said Tanzania faces an acute shortage of specialist doctors.

He however noted that the demand is too high on anesthesiologists—doctors

who give patient medication so they do not feel pain when they are undergoing surgery.

Prof Mseru who is the patron of Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT) said: "There is a serious shortage of anesthesiologists in the country; this poses threat to conducting of safe surgeries".

The minimally invasive brain surgery is the technique by which surgeons safely remove the brain and skull-base tumours through smaller and more precise openings that minimise collateral damages like injuries or other damages inflicted

Be innovative, Dr Shein tells ministry's officials

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday called on officials in the Ministry of Finance and Planning to be more innovative by coming up with various strategies to boost revenue collections.

Dr Shein made the remarks yesterday here when he met with the ministry's management to receive the implementation report of the Work Plan in the period between July and December 2019.

"If we want to attain the targeted development goals in the country, innovation should

be given first priority especially during planning the implementation of various projects, so considering that Finance and Planning ministry is central, more creativity is required," he said.

He urged officials in the ministry to continue working in team and make sure that they always adhere to their professional ethics when executing their daily duties for best results.

"My plea to you is to see that you continue promoting wisdom, integrity, honesty, patriotism and support each other in your daily activities. I am so happy as well for the good report you presented today," he added.

Dr Shein also urged the ministry to hire local researchers in conducting various researches instead of using those from abroad while the country has plenty and competent experts.

Speaking on the National Insurance Corporation and the People's Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ), Dr Shein underscored the need for the institutions to provide competitive service so as to remain in the market.

For his part, Chief Secretary of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar Dr Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee commended the Finance and Planning ministry for the job well done especially in ensuring that salaries are issued on time thus encouraging workers in the public service to continue working hard and delivering the best.

Earlier, Minister Mohamed Ramia Abdiwawa said that the Isles' economy has continued to improve with the national income reached 2,684bn/- in 2017 equivalent to 7.1 percent growth.

"In 2019, Zanzibar also experienced increase of tourists to 538,264 from the 520,809 tourists in the year 2018 saying that the increase was a result of strengthened systems that promote peace in the Island," he said.

Ambassador Ramia also said that the government is implementing development projects in various parts of the country to improve people's economy and the nation's at large.

These include the construction of government's offices in various parts, installation of traffic lights in Unguja and Pemba, construction of damp sites at Kibele and other projects implemented by the Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) and Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB).



VACANCIES

ICAP at Columbia University (MSPH Tanzania LLC) is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the positions listed below to be based in Dar es Salaam and Kagera, Tanzania as indicated.

1. Bio-behavioral Coordinator – 1 Position (Dar es Salaam)

<https://icapacity.icap.columbia.edu/en-us/job/492690/biobehavioral-survey-coordinator>

2. Technical Officer (Key and Vulnerable Population) – 1 position (Dar es Salaam)

<https://icapacity.icap.columbia.edu/en-us/job/492710/technical-officer-key-and-vulnerable-population-kvp>

3. Zonal Project Manager - 1 Position (Kagera)

<https://icapacity.icap.columbia.edu/en-us/job/492314/zonal-project-manager>

4. Logistics and Procurement Sub-Unit Manager – 1 Position (Dar es Salaam)

<https://icapacity.icap.columbia.edu/en-us/job/492586/logistics-and-procurement-sub-unit-manager>

HOW TO APPLY:

All application instruction are available through the links provided above for each position.

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Simbachawene assures foreign diplomats of free, fair elections

By Guardian Reporter

HOME Affairs Minister George Simbachawene has held discussion with the Acting Ambassadors of the United States, ambassadors of the European Union, Angola and Kuwait and assured them Tanzania is safe and that General Elections earmarked for October this year will be free and fair.

Speaking to the envoys who paid



him courtesy calls yesterday at different times at his Dar es Salaam office, Simbachawene (pictured) assured them that the organs under his jurisdiction will continue to work diligently and professionally to beef up security for the people and their property.

The minister also pledged more cooperation between his ministry and the envoys on various issues.

"Tanzania will continue to be safe because my ministry is well prepared in providing security to the people including foreigners and their property," said Simbachawene.

Simbachawene thanked the envoys for their visit and assured them that they are welcome at any time they need to see him in his office.

"I'm so pleased with your visit, you are very welcome, my ministry and the country in general will continue cooperating with you in various issues," he said.



Germany through the city of Tubingen has established ties with Moshi municipality and has agreed to build a fertilizer factory by using solid waste produced from factories and homes. Construction work has started and is expected to be completed in April this year



Dr Wilson Mahera, Director of Elections with the National Electoral Commission, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the extension of voters' registration in the city for three days from today. He is with NEC information director Giveness Aswile. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Road safety conference pledges to ensure vehicles meet safety requirements by 2030

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald, Stockholm

THE global ministerial conference on road safety has pledged to ensure that all vehicles manufactured and sold to markets by 2030 are equipped with appropriate levels of safety performance.

The declaration was made in Stockholm, Sweden on Wednesday as part of commitment to re-

duce road traffic deaths by at least 50 percent in between 2020 and 2030. The commitment is in line with the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development's pledge.

Adopted by a panel of ministers from across the world the document called upon member states to ensure political commitment and responsibility at the highest level in order to make sure the

global goals for 2030 are effectively implemented.

The declaration requires governments to incentivize application and development of existing and future technologies and other innovations to improve accessibility and all aspects of road safety from crash prevention to emergency.

World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General, Tedros

Ghebreyesus said: "Millions of lives lost every year due to road traffic collisions are an outrage. States should establish regional, national and sub-national strategies and action plans for road safety to facilitate the attainment of the goals".

He added: "About 93 percent of the world's road fatalities occur in low-and middle income countries, these nations have approxi-

mately 60 percent of the world's vehicles. Traffic deaths and injuries can be prevented, using tried and tested strategies. Each country must rapidly accelerate action on proven road safety measures to save lives; countries must plan for sustainable mobility".

Ghebreyesus insisted on the need for stakeholders to work together across governments, international agencies, civil society

and the private sector to prevent road crashes.

In their declaration, the ministers expressed concerns with 1.35 million people who are killed every year on the road, with 90 percent of the casualties occurring in low and middle income countries.

"We call upon business and industries of all sizes and sectors to contribute to the attainment of

the road safety related sustainable development goals (SDGs) by applying safe system principles to their value chain including internal practices throughout their procurement, production and distribution process", read part of the declaration.

Themed 'Achieving Global Goals 2030' the two-day conference brought together 1,700 delegates from more than 140 coun-



Wilfred Warioba (L), chairperson of an NGO known as Haki Maendeleo, leads a session at a seminar meant to sensitise groups of small entrepreneurs in Kondoa District on the proper use of social media platforms. It was organised by Kondoa Community Network earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Train more science teachers - Dr Shein

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZINAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has directed the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training to have a special training programme that will enable having enough teachers of science subjects so as to eradicate the shortage thereof.

Receiving a report on the implementation of the ministry's action plan at State House in Zanzibar, President Shein said it will be better if the ministry will prepare a short time programmes that will enable secondary school graduates in science subjects and those with university Degrees to join the said training in various schools.

He said in the 56 years since the 1964 Revolution it's not good for Zanzibar to remain with the problem of shortage of science teachers and continue depending on foreign teachers.

He explained that the ministry is professional in outlook with professional diligent and experienced experts; hence it was better for it to ensure the problem is solved.

He also wanted it to submit a special document to the government on the need for a new modern library that will be internet based.

Dr Shein also called upon the ministry to look into the possibility of having two more schools for girls in the regions apart from the three that are currently under construction.

He said there is a need for a special procedure reaching people who are illiterate in various 'shehias' (wards) so as to completely eradicate illiteracy in the country.

Touching on the importance of conducting research for the good of the country's development in education President Shein appealed to the Education Ministry to think of having an institute of education and research.

Earlier, the Minister for Education Riziki Pembe Juma said the ministry has made great achievements in implementation of the education policy for 2019/20 that responded to the CCM 2015 Election Manifesto.

He said among the achievements include increase of students who pass Form IV examinations for 2019 in the First, Second and Third Divisions.

He said other achievements during the period were the continued construction of 22 science creativity centres for both Unguja and Pemba that are set to be completed this year.

He said there were great challenges in the development of school infrastructures especially classrooms in order to reduce classroom congestion to reach a level of 45 students per class for primary schools and 40 students per class for secondary schools.

We are well set to make power outages history, TANESCO says

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANIA Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) has said it is well set to completely end the problem of power outages up to the year 2025.

This was revealed yesterday by the Acting Deputy Director Gener-

al of the power utility for Arusha Region Eng Raymond Seya when speaking to reporters when closing the training seminar for capacity building for Tanesco repair engineers for the Northern Zone.

Seya said in the past there was the power-cuts challenge, but they have now solved the issue by mak-

ing improvements in various areas in the utility's infrastructure.

He said the power utility will continue to improve its service to customers to international standards for customers' satisfaction.

"The aim of this seminar is to provide our engineers with skills so that they work day and night to

solve the frequent power outages issues as the situation denies the government of its much needed revenue," he said.

He said their expectation is to make every mwananchi benefit from an uninterrupted power supply.

TANESCO's Senior Distribution

Manager Eng Mahende Mgaya said the seminar started by following up and identifying the main causes of power outages beginning 2015 and after that they will put in place a strategic plan of solving the challenge, adding that uninterrupted power supply will attract industrial investors.

Mkapa underscores need for govt backing to private sector

By Correspondent James Kandoya

FORMER President Benjamin William Mkapa has highlighted the need for the government to continue working with the private sector to bolster the country's economy.

Mkapa made the remarks on Tuesday this week at the CEO roundtable meeting held in Dar es Salaam. During the meeting, Mkapa shared experience on his leadership visionary journey as one of the top government officials.

Briefing journalists, CEO roundtable Executive Director, Santina Benson said the meeting was fruitful and they have learned a lot.

Benson said in his remarks, the former president share deeper leadership insights as well as how the private sector can contribute to the country's economy.

He said: "The former president

used most of his time to advise private sector to cooperate with the government to bolster economic growth and improvement of people's welfare".

He said Mkapa narrated on how it was difficult for him to clinch to the country's top leadership post as he experienced a number of challenges.

CEO Roundtable Chairman, Sanjah Rughani said that the former president shared his work experience with 16 members of CEO Apprenticeship Programme (CAP)-an initiative that aims to groom youths with skills of holding top positions in managements. CAP is used as training and mentorship programme to groom young leaders with leadership skills.

He said in 2016, the CEO roundtable recognised the contribution made by him in his continued efforts in promoting inclusive economic growth and transparent leadership on the African continent through launch of the

African leadership forum.

The African leadership forum, a platform that reflects on Africa's development journey, assesses the challenges and opportunities faced by the continent and propose solutions and ideas to African leaders.

Rughani said during his administration and through pragmatic approach in developing the country's economy, he instituted policies that promoted the continued development of a market led economy skills.

"During our meeting Mkapa shared deeper leadership insights following his recently launched book 'My life, My Purpose': A Tanzanian President Remembers" and indeed, we have benefited a lot" he said.

The chairman noted that during Mkapa's leadership tenure, the country's economy was on the right path, sustainable it even after his retirement.



Rotary e-club of Masaki and Diamond Trust Bank Tanzania yesterday distributed free delivery kits at the prenatal unit of Dar es Salaam's Mbagala Rangi-Tatu Hospital. Rotary Foundation director Hilu Bura is seen displaying the kits at the unit's clinic yesterday. She said they plan to extend similar support to the city's Sinza, Tandale, Magomeni and Chanika health centre between now and the end of next month. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SUZA launches project to boost renewable tech, green economy

By Guardian Reporter

THE State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) in collaboration with other education partners have launched the 'Development of New Academic Curricula on Sustainable Energies and Green Economy in Africa (DALILA)' project.

The European Union (EU) three-year funded project through the Erasmus Programme will be jointly carried out by the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), Sapienza University of Rome (Italy), University of Cadiz (Spain), University of Dodoma (Tanzania), Uganda Christian University (Uganda), Uganda Martyrs University (Uganda), Sahara Ventures (Tanzania), A Sud (Italy) and INOMA (Spain).

Speaking at the official launch of the project, Dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences SUZA, Prof Hamad Issa Hassan said the project is aimed at supporting the modernisation, accessibility and market-oriented of higher education in the partner countries in order to contribute to the development of sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth.

It also intended to answer the growing request of energy in Tanzania and Uganda and to the new job market opportunities in the renewable energy sector in order to contribute to poverty reduction and to identify solutions and create more access and opportunity for all students, he said.

The DALILA project main objective is to establish six new courses

on 'Renewable Technologies' and 'Green Business Creation and Development' in two Universities in Tanzania and other two in Uganda. The courses will be based on an innovative approach that includes the promotion of an equal access to higher education and the facilitation of students' transition to work. At large, the project is intended to benefit all local communities in particular areas, like Tanzania and Uganda where the need to increase energy provision is crucially linked with the objective to reduce its negative environmental impact.

The launch of the project followed with a three-day workshop attended by project institutions' participants from 19th to 21st February, 2020 seeking to provide them with implementation guidelines.

Dodoma City starts removing 'machingas' from undesignated areas

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA City Council has embarked on exercise to remove all small traders 'machingas' conducting business in undesignated areas including roadsides as these pose hazards to their own safety and health.

This was revealed yesterday by Dodoma City's Marketing Officer James Yuna when speaking to the traders on the ongoing campaign to remove all businesses from the undesignated areas.

He said roadsides, including pedestrians' pavements, bridges and in water drainages are hazardous to them and their customers and called upon them to conduct their businesses in designated areas.

He also called upon various offi-

cial to work together with the government to educate the traders not to conduct business just anywhere.

He also called upon them to do their businesses in the official markets nearer to them found in almost every ward in the city, as spaces are available therein.

For his part the Secretary of the association of the small traders Victor Sijila said the 'machinga' identity cards (IDs) should not be used as permits to contravene city council laws by doing business anywhere.

He said as their leaders they support the City Council exercise to remove all those who violate the laws.

For his part the traders' treasurer Enjoy Mlemwa appealed to the traders to be diligent in their profession and respect the bounds of their business activities.



oadsides, including pedestrians' pavements, bridges and in water drainages are hazardous to them and their customers and called upon them to conduct their businesses in designated areas

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



UJUMBE WA MKURUGENZI MKUU WA MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA - TCRA KATIKA KUADHIMISHA SIKU YA USALAMA MTANDAONI MWAKA 2020 (SAFER INTERNET DAY 2020)

Siku ya tarehe 11 Februari, 2020 Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) imeadhimisha Siku ya Usalama Mtandaoni (Safer Internet Day) nchini katika ukumbi wa maktaba kuu ya Chuo Kikuu cha Dar es Salaam (UDSM). Maadhimisho ya Siku ya Usalama Mtandaoni ni mpango wa kimataifa wenye lengo la kuhamasisha matumizi bora na salama ya mtandao wa intaneti.

Siku hii ambayo huadhimishwa wiki ya pili ya mwezi Februari kila mwaka, huunganisha mamilioni ya watu ulimwenguni kwa nia ya kuhamasisha matumizi sahihi ya mtandao ili kuimarisha usalama wa anga la mtandao dhidi ya athari za kiusalama kwa kutoa elimu ya vionjo mbalimbali vinavyohamasisha matumizi bora ya mtandao kwa kuzingatia kanuni na miongozo ya kiusalama.

Katika zama hizi za kidijitali ambapo utekelezaji wa shughuli mbalimbali za kila siku katika jamii hutegemea Teknolojia ya Habari na Mawasiliano (TEHAMA), mtandao ni nyenzo muhimu ya kuiwezesha jamii kushiriki ipasavyo kwenye uchumi wa kidijitali (digital economy) na hivyo kujipatia maendeleo ya kiuchumi. Mtandao umetoa fursa mbalimbali za kiuchumi kama vile kufanya biashara za kibenki kwa njia ya simu, kutafuta masoko kwa njia ya mitandao ya kijamii na hivyo kuiwezesha jamii ya Watanzania husuan vijana kujipatia kipato.

Miaka ya hivi karibuni tumeshuhudia maendeleo makubwa ya sekta ya mawasiliano nchini. Jamii kubwa ya Watanzania mijini na vijijini imefikwa na huduma ya mawasiliano ya simu na mtandao wa intaneti. Huduma ya mtandao kwa kiasi kikubwa imekuwa kichocheo kikubwa cha maendeleo ya kiuchumi na kijamii.

Mtandao kwa asili yake ya muunganiko na kutokuwa na mipaka, umepelekea nchi zote ulimwenguni kukumbana na athari za kiusalama. Hivyo, ni muhimu kwa wadau ulimwenguni kote kushirikiana ipasavyo katika kukabiliana na changamoto za kiusalama ili kuujenga mtandao ulio bora na salama kwa maendeleo ya kiuchumi na kijamii.

Kauli mbiu ya mwaka huu ni **"pamoja kwa mtandao bora"**. Hivyo basi jamii nzima haina budi kushirikiana ili kuhakikisha anga la mtandao linakuwa salama kwa watu wa rika zote.

Kwa muktadha huo, kila mdau wa mawasiliano ana jukumu la kutekeleza ili kuimarisha usalama wa mtandao dhidi ya matukio hatarishi ya kiusalama kwa kufanya yafuatayo: -

1. **Watoto na vijana** - mnawajibika kuufanya mtandao kuwa salama kwa kuwa waadilifu mnapokuwa mnamumia mitandao, kulinda heshima zenu na za wenzenu walioko mtandaoni.

Mtumie teknolojia hii kwa fursa chanya kama vile kujielimisha, kujadili mambo ya msingi na yenye staha, kufanya ushirika wenye mlengo chanya, kujiburudisha kwa kuzingatia miongozo na kanuni mbalimbali za kijamii, tamaduni zetu na kanuni za kiusalama zilizo;

2. **Wazazi na Walezi** - tuwawezeshe na kuwasaidia vijana/watoto wetu kutumia teknolojia ipasavyo kwa sisi mwenyewe kuwa mfano bora, mfano kwa heshima, tahadhari na kuzingatia kanuni za usalama (security best practises).

3. **Waalimu na wakufunzi** - kujenga mtandao bora kwa kuwaandaa wanafunzi na elimu ya Teknolojia ya Habari na Mawasiliano (TEHAMA), kwa kuandaa vipindi vya kuelimisha zaidi matumizi ya TEHAMA na kutengeneza maudhui yatakayotumika kuelimisha umma kwani ukielimisha mtoto mmoja hapa ataelimisha kumi afikapo nyumbani au anapokuwepo kwenye jamii inayomzunguka.

4. **Watoa huduma ya mtandao (Internet Service Providers)** - Kuimarisha ulinzi wa miundombinu ya mtandao dhidi ya hatari na kiusalama (cyber-threats) na hivyo kutoa huduma bora ya mtandao zitakazojenga na sio kubomoa maadili ya jamii. Tuwe na vipindi vya kuelimisha umma sambamba na kutoa huduma hii ya intaneti.

5. **Watoa huduma za maudhui mtandaoni (Online Content Service Providers)** - kutengeneza maudhui bora na salama kwa kuzingatia kanuni za maudhui matandaoni i.e **The Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations, 2018** yanayokidhi mahitaji ya jamii yetu.

6. **Watoa maamuzi** - Kutunga sera, sheria na kanuni zitakazochangia kukuwa kwa TEHAMA hapa nchini kwani ni dhahiri kuwa hatuwezi kuepuka teknolojia hii kama tunataka kuendana na maendeleo ya hivi sasa ambapo kitu ni dijitali.

7. **Kila mtumiaji wa mtandao** anawajibika kutumia mtandao kwa usahihi na kwa kuzingatia taratibu, kanuni, sheria na sera za kitaifa na kimataifa.

Pamoja na majukumu hayo ya kimakundi, sote tunawajibika pia **kuripoti matukio ya usalama mtandaoni kwa "TZ-CERT"** kwa ajili ya ushauri na msaada wa kiufundi kwani imeanzishwa kutoa huduma kwa wananchi. Mnakaribishwa sana kutembelea TCRA Makao Makuu hapo mtapata fursa ya kujua zaidi TZ-CERT au kuitembelea mtandaoni kwa kupitia tovuti yao ya www.tzcert.go.tz.

Ni kwa kutambua umuhimu wa mtandao katika kuongeza tija na ufanisi na mchango kwa maendeleo ya kiuchumi na kijamii, Serikali yetu imekuwa ikifanya jitihada mbalimbali ili kuhakikisha usalama wa mtandao na watumiaji wake. Jitihada hizo ni pamoja na kuanzishwa kwa kituo cha kitaifa cha mwitikio wa kukabiliana na majanga ya kompyuta kijulikana kama **Tanzania Computer Emergency Response Team** kwa ufupisho **"TZ-CERT"**. Kituo hiki kiliundwa mwaka 2010 ndani ya muundo wa Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA). Baadhi ya majukumu ya TZ-CERT ni:-

- i. Kutoa elimu na kuhamasisha matumizi bora na salama ya mtandao na mifumo ya TEHAMA;
- ii. Kufanya tathmini ya mashambulizi ya kiusalama kwenye miundombinu muhimu ya TEHAMA nchini ili kubaini madhaifu yaliyoko na kuchukua hatua stahiki. Huduma hii hutolewa bila ya malipo yoyote;
- iii. Kuwajengea uwezo wataalamu wa TEHAMA kwenye eneo la usalama mtandao ili kuongeza ujuzi na weledi wa kukabiliana na matukio ya kiusalama;
- iv. Kutoa angalizo na ushauri kwa wadau wake na jamii kwa ujumla juu ya hatari za kiusalama na hatua stahiki za kuchukua kuepuka athari za kiusalama.

Mwisho, kwa kushirikiana pamoja tutaweza kuujenga mtandao bora na salama kwa manufaa yetu binafsi na Taifa kwa ujumla.

Imetolewa na:

MKURUGENZI MKUU
MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA (TCRA)



Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) chairperson Dr Ellen Otaru (L) opens a master class workshop on the combating of crime against held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The training is being conducted in implementation of a USAID-funded project focused on promoting Tanzania's environment, conservation and tourism. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

1,000 students forced to use three pit latrines

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MORE than 1,000 students from Ipagala Primary School in Dodoma City are forced to use the three teachers' pit-latrines causing them to slump into the ground.

The situation has spurred the City Council to relocate 20m/- from the school's classrooms construction project to build pit-latrines for students.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday the Council's Economist Shaban Juma said they have been forced to do so to rescue students from their ordeal but added that the latrines are still not adequate to cater for the big number of students.

He said they are building emergency latrines to alleviate the situation as the students used to push one another when answering to nature's calls.

"I plead with parents not to worry as within two weeks the pit-latrines for students will be ready as the Council has taken up the responsibility to solve the challenge," he said.

Earlier, one parent, Juma Othman said due to the problem ever parent was called to contribute 15,000/-.

"Is this really free education? Why do they want to contribute towards latrine building while

our job is to provide the 'workforce' and not money as the school's leadership claim in one of their sittings?" he asked.

When this paper went to the Primary Schools education Officer Joseph Mabeo he said he had nothing to comment and went out of his office.

"I don't want to be photographed without my express permission, I'm going to examine the situation for myself," he

JICA awards senior TRA officer for outstanding performance

By Guardian Reporter

THE Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has awarded a senior officer of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Pius Kibahila, for his outstanding contribution in the East Africa's 'Trade Facilitation and Border Control Programme'.

In a statement, JICA said that in the project, Kibahila has been ranked as the "Most Active Master Trainer 2019 for Harmonized commodity description and cod-

ing System (HS) Classification".

Kibahila who also works as an instructor at the Institute for Tax Administration (ITA) is expected to receive his award today at the JICA's office in Dar es Salaam.

According to statement, the Project is implemented in collaboration with five (5) Revenue Authorities from East African Community (EAC) member states of Tanzania, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

The current Project started in December 2017 and will be im-

plemented for 42 months until June 2021, with the major goal of promoting trade facilitation and enhanced safety and security in East Africa.

The Master Trainer Program (MTP) originally started in 2010 under JICA technical cooperation "Project on Capacity Building for the Customs Administrations of the Eastern African Region", in collaboration with World Custom Organisation (WCO), EAC Secretariat and Japan Customs, with the aim of developing a pool of

trainers in the EAC Revenue Authorities as well as developing regional training materials, in order to develop self-contained training capacity within the region to train their Customs' staff and relevant clearing agents.

"Kibahila has attended the MTP since its start, in 2010. The MTP members jointly developed the training materials such as HS handbook, training presentations and case study book, with the support of experts from JICA, WCO and the EAC secretariat.

These training materials are still widely used for Customs' training officers and clearing agents," read part of the statement.

It said that the project monitors the delivery of training by the Master Trainers, in order to ensure the intended impact and the sustainability of the program for Customs capacity building.

It should be noted that these Master Trainers have trained about 6,000 customs officers and stakeholders in the areas of custom valuation (CV), HS classification and Intelligence Analysis

(IA) in East Africa for the last two years. More than 1,000 TRA customs officers and customs agents in Tanzania have been trained this year alone.

Among 25 regional Master trainers on HS classification, Kibahila has been delivering the HS training to the largest number of trainees over the last two years, ranging from TRA officers and clearing agents to those who are in post-graduate diploma courses and officers/agents in other EAC

countries.

He trained in total 328 people from October 2018 to September 2019 alone. "JICA Tanzania really commends this outstanding contribution to the project and to the nation of Tanzania."

"Kibahila is expected to continue to be active in performing his duties as a master trainer contributing not only to the project but also to TRA and Tanzania as a whole while inspiring other master trainers to follow his footsteps."



Catherine Mwakilagala (L), a senior tax executive officer with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), explains to Iringa municipality salesman Wilbert Gwanchele (R) on tax-related issues yesterday during a taxpayer education campaign ending tomorrow. The salesman is Acacia Pharmacy and Co Limited's chief executive. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Indian citizens to invest in agro-chemical production industry

By Beatrice Philemon

INDIAN investors have showed interest to expand their services and invest in the country's agro-chemical production industry following conducive environment set by the government.

The companies named General Crop Science PVT, LTD (GCS) and Royal Crop Science Ltd (RCS) are currently looking for local investors to partner.

Speaking recently in Dar es Salaam where they came to attend a two-day India-Tanzania Buyer Seller Meet, the companies stated that they are competent in the production of agrochemicals used for preventing crop insects, fungi that cause diseases on plants, weeds, and others.

GCS's Managing Director, Ashish Chugh said that RCS and GCS are an ISO certified manufacturers of crop protection and crop supplement products in India.

"We were in Tanzania to find business partners, explore business opportunities available in Tanzania and see how we can together initiate and strengthen collaborations, promote trade links between the two countries," he said.

He said that GCS manufactures a wide range of agrochemicals like herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, weedicides, and fertilizers in various forms in- terms of liquid, dust, powder, granules and plant growth regulators.

The company has a pan-India presence in all major states in India with a network of distributors/ dealers and reaching out to millions of farmers.

He said from 2018, it has

started exploring world market with the help of 170 innovative formulations in its basket.

Currently the company's strong products include Glyphosate, Paraquat, Chlorpyrifos, Temephos, Cypermethrin, Permethrin, Hexaconazol, Emamectin benzoate with all possible formulations including plant growth regulators and fertilisers.

"As company we target customers primarily farmers, Growth drivers are the intensive marketing network penetrating even the interiors of India, increased farm income enhanced awareness about the cost-benefit of agro-chemicals, highly diverse products range with solution for almost all problems in all crops, innovative marketing strategies and technical tie-ups," he says.

He said the company keeps adding new products every year through its collaborations and is continuously on the lookout to bring the latest technology to Indian farmers and other farmers across the world," he noted

Chugh further said the company's manufacturing facilities and their corporate office at Panipat (Haryana) are managed by highly qualified, adequately experienced professionals and scientists in addition to a committed team of employees which include skilled and semi-skilled workforce with competent supervisory, administrative and managerial staff.

"Company's upcountry marketing operations are managed by competent Marketing professionals and supports staff located in the company's regional/branch offices based at all the regions of India.

The production capacity of the factory is 20KL (liquid), 12 Ton (powder) and 100 Ton (Granular) per day," he noted.

He said they ensure that customers consistently receive high-quality products and services.

"Implementing an effective and robust ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS) will help us to focus on the important areas of our business and improve efficiency, we are continuously working towards bringing revolutionary solutions for crop protection to make a lasting change in the global food system." Chugh added.

Speaking on the Royal Crop Science Ltd (RCS), Chugh said that the company is determined to provide growers with technologies and solutions to improve productivity and sustainability of their farming operations without impacting the environment balance.

"We believe there is more to agriculture than a healthy and profitable crop which is why we are on a quest to find productivity, effective and sustainable ways of farming for one generation to the next," he said.



We were in Tanzania to find business partners, explore business opportunities available in Tanzania and see how we can together initiate and

Netherlands to finance construction of Dar es Salaam modern dumpsite

By Guardian Reporter

THE Netherlands Embassy in Tanzania has agreed finance construction of a modern dumpsite at Pugu on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam to facilitate management of solid waste in the country's commercial capital.

Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union matters and Environment) Mussa Azzan Zungu, said that the Netherlands agreed to finance improvement of outlays infrastructures at the Pugu dump site and paving the road to the site to ease waste delivery.

"We had a successful conversation with Ambassador Jeroen Verheul of the Netherlands. They will provide 1.5bn/- for the feasibility study and research before disbursing 75bn/- for the project which will see Dar es Salaam residents getting a modern dump site," he told journalists recently shortly after talks with Ambassador Verheul.

Zungu noted that completion of the project will enhance the city's environment conservation efforts, cutting health risks to people residing near the dump site. Waste generated in the city is massive whereas the current Pugu dump handles 5,000 tonnes per day, he asserted.

"Completion of the project will improve the dump's waste recycling capacity thus reduce health risks to people living near the dump."

Wastes generated at the dump will be used to produce electricity to be connected to the national grid and benefit more people, he said.

Netherlands Ambassador Jeroen Verheul praised Zungu for being appointed minister, noting that the embassy has been working with private institutions to improve environment conservation in the country.

"We are grateful for the successful discussions aiming at protecting the environment. We have been promoting tree planting as well as the use of solar power in rural areas," he explained.

The Vice-President's Office (Union matters and Environment) has been working closely with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to ensure that the public is not affected by generated solid waste, along with managing contaminated water with considerable chemical residues from different industries.

"For the next two years the city's population is slated to reach eight to nine million and the dump is the same as the day I visited it. The dump situation is bad - we must admit the infrastructure is bad, and steps are being taken about the matter," the minister said earlier in the legislature.

The Vice President's Office through a public education program provides tips on waste management at the community level for civic leaders and other stakeholders, especially in solid waste recycling, he added.



Rukwa regional commissioner Joachim Wangabo (in tie) and district commissioners in the region pictured on Wednesday signing an agreement to be implemented as part of a regional five-year initiative whose thrust is on reducing the incidence of childhood pregnancies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Charity teams up with firms to stage free medical camp

By Correspondent James Lanka, Siha

THE Lions Club of Dar-es-salaam in partnership with two private companies offered free medical camp in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region during the weekend.

The medical checkup and Cataract surgery for the eye, blood pressure and diabetes was held at Siha district hospital, located at Sanya Juu area. It was jointly organised by the charity in collaboration with the Kilimanjaro-based avocado farming and exporting firm Africado and Da-es-salaam based Auditing firm-PKF.

Speaking at the event, Siha District Commissioner Onesmo Buswelu appealed to other charity organisations and firms to initiate free health camps in various hospitals for sustainable health services particularly for the poor.

He made the call over the weekend at the two-day free eye camp at Siha District hospital organised by the Lions Club of Dar-es-salaam in collaboration with two other firms.

"On behalf of the government, I commend the role played by Africado company and all Lions Clubs who organised this crucial health camp where more than 2000 patients attended while some of them will undergo free Cataract Surgery by Eye Specialists from various hospitals in Kilimanjaro region who are

at our hospital for this free medication camp; my appeal to the other charity clubs is to imitate this..." he explained.

For his part, the Coordinator of the exercise, Mustansir Gulamhussein explained that, the charity project that took place between February 15 to 16 this year at Siha district hospital aims at commemorating World Sight Day and the death of the father of nation, Julius Nyerere.

"In our free medical checkups for the eye, the patients who will be found with Cataract will undergo free Cataract Surgeries, others will get free eye glasses and medication ..." he explained.

Lion Gulamhussein further explained that, lions clubs has so far sponsored different charity projects for the people with disabilities, and other special groups such as orphans and vulnerable children.

For his part, the Human Resources Manager (HRM) for Africado company Paschal Shayo explained that, his firm has donated more than 20 mil/- in the exercise to make sure that people who are leaving in villages surrounding their avocado farms benefit with the revenues from the company.

"Africado has donated more than 20 mil/- in this two-day free medical checkups for the eye, as a part of corporate socio responsibilities..." he explained.



In our free medical checkups for the eye, the patients who will be found with Cataract will undergo free Cataract Surgeries, others will get free eye glasses and medication

EAC hosts Africa infrastructure development meeting

By Guardian Reporter

THE New Partnership for Africa's Development Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF) has held its 30th oversight committee meeting for the special fund at the headquarters of the East African Community in Arusha.

The meeting which took place on Thursday and Friday last week convened over 30 participants, including donors providing financial support to the NEPAD-IPPF Special Fund, representatives of the African Development Bank, African Union Commission, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Regional Economic Communities, Regional Power Pools, Corridors Authorities and Transboundary River basin or-

ganisations.

Members agreed to implement recommendations of NEPAD-IPPF's independent evaluation held in 2019, and also approved operational reforms and the 2020 work programme.

EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Steven Mlote, thanked the bank for its generous support over the past 20 years which he said had resulted in numerous achievements in various sectors including transport, energy, one stop border posts, ICT and Trans-Boundary Water Projects.

He said the recently completed Arusha-Tengeru dual carriageway and the Arusha bypass had substantially improved traffic flow in the Arusha region while the counterpart section

in Kenya - the Taveta-Mwatate road, has opened up a new and shorter trade and transport route for Rwanda and Burundi from the port of Mombasa.

"Along the Coast of East Africa, the transport corridor from Malindi in Kenya to Bagamoyo in Tanzania is due for upgrading with funds from the Bank. It is gratifying to note that its preparation was funded by the NEPAD-IPPF. This road will close the missing surface transport link between the EAC and SADC regions which traverses Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique," he added.

The successes of initial bank-funded multinational projects between Kenya and Tanzania provided the impetus to widen the geographical spread to other EAC partner

states with current projects underway to link Tanzania to the three landlocked states of Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.

"To date, NEPAD-IPPF has extended support to the EAC to the tune of almost \$15 million for road and rail soft infrastructure projects over a period of 13 years," said Mlote.

Also represented at the meeting were development partners KfW, and the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Business which both acknowledged the pivotal role NEPAD-IPPF continues to play in the infrastructure space on the continent. They equally recognized the need for more resources to enable the fund to achieve more.

Laura González Villarejo representing the Ministry of

Economy, Spain said in her statement that Africa is a priority region for Spain. She added that the Spanish Council of Ministers' long-term strategic plan for Africa demonstrated the interest of Spain in Africa.

Michael Andres from KfW, the Oversight Committee Chairman, reiterated the full support of Germany for the Fund. He thanked the NEPAD-IPPF team led by Mike Salawou, Bank Division Manager Infrastructure & Partnerships, for the good performance of the fund during 2019, for a well-organised meeting and the East African Community Secretariat for hosting the event. He emphasized the need for joint effort from all concerned parties including

the RECs to seek funding for the facility.

AUC representative Yagouba Traore called upon AUC Member states to support the Fund.

Director of Infrastructure at the African Development Bank, Amadou Oumarou reaffirmed the institution's commitment to mobilize more resources for NEPAD-IPPF and highlighted a Euro 3 million contribution received by the facility from the Spanish government in 2019. Infrastructure development would be more critical as the continent sought to make the African Continental Free Trade Area functional, he said.

"The facility has maintained a sustained drive towards building partnerships and can report on positive co-financing results. Notwithstanding, our

efforts to secure more resources will continue through 2020, both from African governments and stakeholders as well as in collaboration with private sector companies and philanthropists," Oumarou said.

Going forward, implementing cost recovery instruments to support Public Private Partnership projects to attract more private sector financing downstream would be an important focus for the NEPAD-IPPF, he added.

The meeting ended with a visit to the Namanga "One Stop Border Post" between Tanzania-Kenya. This project funded by NEPAD-IPPF, has helped increase trade and tourism and has also stimulated the regional economy within the East African Community.

German ambassador presents credentials to EAC

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Tanzania Regine Hess has presented her letter of credence to the Secretary General of the East Africa Community Secretariat.

The envoy presented the document to Ambassador Libérat Mfumukeko on Wednesday to be accredited as the new German Ambassador to the EAC. Hess had previously held diplomatic positions in the EAC Partner States of Uganda and Kenya and was accredited to the United Republic of Tanzania on 14th January, 2020. She is the first female German Ambassador to be accredited to the EAC.

The EAC and Germany have enjoyed longstanding and close relations, their joint development cooperation going back two decades. Commitments from the German Government to the EAC have to date mounted to over EUR 470 mill. (approximately US\$508 million). The joint cooperation focuses on the areas of economic and social integration as well as a health.

Receiving the German Ambassador, EAC Secretary General Amb Mfumukeko hailed the strong relations between the Community and Germany noting that Germany had provided generous

technical and financial support to the EAC for decades.

"We have truly benefited from the German support which has catalysed other Development Partners to support our projects and programmes," said the Secretary General.

Amb Mfumukeko informed the Germany Ambassador of the significant progress made by the EAC in the four pillars of integration namely the Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation, adding that the community had made great strides in the four pillars due to political goodwill by the leaders of the Partner States.

For her part, the German Ambassador emphasized on the importance of Germany's support to the EAC Secretariat saying:

"Germany is a staunch believer in regional integration. We are convinced that further regional integration amongst the six EAC Partner States will be of great socio-economic and political benefit. The German Government remains committed in supporting the EAC Secretariat in the future," said Hess.

Also in attendance at the meeting were the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng Steven Mlote, and



Equinor Tanzania official Dr Naomi Makota hands over to acting Lindi regional administrative secretary Maggid Myao (L) a donation of corrugated iron roofing sheets worth 10m/- for use by flood victim in the region. With them is the firm's communication officer, Erick Mchome. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Forum roots for opportunities among women entrepreneurs

By Guardian Reporter

THE Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF) has scheduled a dialogue next month to mark International Women's Day and raise awareness on the challenges and opportunities for women entrepreneurs in Africa.

According to a statement released yesterday, the dialogue is set to take place on 9 March in Lagos, Nigeria.

"We want to discuss meaningful ways to make women benefit from the world's largest common market for goods and services; and offer a plat-

form for people to connect, share and network," said Irene Ochem, AWIEF Founder and CEO. The aim of the event is to reach regional and pan-African influencers to incite dialogue round generational-equality to entrench a sense of collectivism in working towards actionable solutions for gender equality on the African continent.

International Women's Day #IWD2020 takes place on 8 March 2020 with the theme: #EachForEqual, which is the premise that an equal world is an enabled world and that equality is not a women's issue, but a business issue as gender equality is essential for economies and communi-

ties to thrive.

The theme for the AWIEF IWD day is 'A decade of economic emancipation of women in Africa 2020-2030'. Ochem explains: "How do we ensure that women and women-owned businesses are elevated by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), political and economic transformation and that the principle of collectivism is amplified and entrenched."

Partners to AWIEF for this key event include the Embassy of Sweden in Abuja, AGRA, OCP Group, APO Group.

The AWIEF conference made history in 2019

when it called for the economic empowerment of women to be linked to AfCFTA, at its annual gathering of leading women politicians, businesswomen and entrepreneurs on the continent, 29-30 October 2019, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.

The initial call was made by renowned economic activist and social entrepreneur, Wendy Luhabe, from the stage on the first day, for radical action and not just conversation, leading to the adoption on Day 2, by the gathering of influential women of a resolution to be delivered to the Chair

of the African Union. Said Luhabe, the Founder of Women's Private Equity Fund and co-founder WINDE: "Women do not get invited when nations are going through transitions. We have to make a space for ourselves."

The resolution states that: "The Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), is a monumental milestone on Africa's developmental roadmap that must be exploited to the full for intra-Africa trade. It will unleash almost unlimited opportunities, new economies of scale, and income and employment generation through greater market and economic integration."

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Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Overhauling of education vital option as improvement strategy

A NEW idea has been floated, in a report by the Parliamentary Social Services and Community Development committee, that a commission be formed to overhaul the country's education system.

It is likely that the report will attract immense interest, with some quarters having reservations with respect to the quality of products coming out of all levels of education in the country, going by the report. But could it also be what one would elect to refer to as fishing in troubled waters?

It is a bit easy to use anyone's frustrations to make a case for something that in a more sober moment the person wouldn't think about it, but at the spur of the moment it looks entirely credible and appealing.

The reason for this worry is that the government is reported to be busy reviewing the national education policy, and contributions in the form of ideas would be welcome - only that it is an overhaul that some MPs and other people are demanding.

Listening to what the MPs said might be enlightening enough on the purposes, relative to what an overhaul entails, but the matter is ostensibly left to the commission recommended to sort out.

But the legislators pointedly said that what was needed was the overhauling of the education system in the country from kindergarten and all the way to university.

The explanation given was that the education now available in the country does not respond to the massive changes in the world, including in science and technology. Still, computers are gradually being made available in schools and obviously that isn't entirely easy cost-wise.

The committee said that for the system to produce more competent and

competitive job creators as opposed to half-baked job seekers, an education commission should be formed to set out what is required so that the government can implement the changes.

Clearly, this binds the government in that it would have to form a commission and proceed with implementation. This would suggest that the parliamentary committee would skip the ministerial review on how to improve education, and indeed transfer the task elsewhere.

That is essentially what the committee's chairman was saying - that the Education ministry would swing into action by forming a commission to undertake a review of the system. It would then hopefully proceed to implement what the commission will have said, and there would be no government veto on the contents of the report.

That is a way of doing things rather different from what applies at present, where decisions of that level are made by the President and a commission can only study and advise, not study and have the government tied down with it.

What is being dangled is that the commission's report will be followed by major changes making Tanzanians completing studies at schools and colleges able to employ themselves or become more easily employable.

The idea is given as if one is switching on a light, whereas the fruits of a new system of education can't be immediate and only reforms can be tested more or less rapidly.

Wishing for future school or college leavers who are entirely different from the present crop has its merits, but remains just that: wishful thinking.

Can MPs or anyone else really be so sure of the solution to this problem? Couldn't things work better, say, if any ideas fed into a ministerial review to start with? Just a thought...

Prompt revamping of Central railway line a must as work on SGR continues

IMPLEMENTATION of Tanzania's ambitious Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project is understood to be registering steady progress. Meanwhile, woes relating to the operations of the decades-old Central line have not ended.

Lately, the Tanzania Railway Corporation has had to suspend its passenger and cargo services from Dar es Salaam to Kigoma and Mwanza ports on account of damage on the line following heavy rains.

Passengers who were on board a Dar es Salaam-bound disrupted passenger train have been trickling out of Dodoma by bus, depending on the availability of the fares they were refunded by TRC.

At times train fares are low enough and if one is stranded along the route, merely refunding the fare might not be enough for one to proceed to original destination. It is this problem that Dodoma district authorities noticed, subsequently demanding that TRC obtain alternative means of transport like commuter buses to help them out.

TRC has conducted a study and satisfied itself that there are sections of the central line that are routinely or traditionally damaged by floodwaters.

It all comes back to the phenomenon now known as El Nino, and the public here started to hear of it in the late 1990s, which is a weather disturbance that comes up towards Christmas. Of course, it is not a joyful appendage to the festival as such.

It is also noteworthy that the Dodoma authorities hailed the TRC management for prompt communication on potential danger if the train were to pass along that route as intended. This precaution must have

helped to save lives, as hundreds of travellers would have been at great risk had the warnings sounded from the flooded areas not been heeded.

It is now a waiting period for the corporation to complete a study on revamping the section, and obtaining permission to converge resources for the job.

At a certain point, TRC had talked about landing partners from the business community as well as UN agencies in moving food and other material for refugee zones and other troubled areas farther inland.

This initiative had to do with obtaining engines and wagons without waiting for the annual budget estimations for the relevant allocation. That was by all accounts a good move, even if it appears its scope needs to be widened to take care of the new developments - that it is rail revamping, and not just obtaining wagons and engines, which must be considered.

How far this earlier arrangement can be stretched to cover the new requirements will be clear after TRC clarifies where their partners stand in that context.

But instead of this being a purely corporate matter, the government could act speedily by extending urgently needed funds before the budget procedure is taken up, so that the others also look into their sources to see what can be done. That would be a potentially win-win situation.

Yet care must be taken to avoid entering into unauthorised debt even if it is an urgent matter, as that situation can plainly lead to confusion, where costing inspections are not properly conducted. Indeed, it must be a matter of both speed and standards.

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Cyber crime threat: Many in Africa are concerned but few are prepared

By Special Correspondents

THE 2019 KnowBe4 African Report across South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritius and Botswana has found that people living on the continent are not prepared for the cyber threat, but with 65 per cent of respondents across all eight countries saying they are concerned about cyber crime.

They are vulnerable, as they are not aware of what they don't know. From ransomware to phishing to malware and credential theft, users are not protecting themselves adequately because they mistakenly think that they are informed, ready and prepared. Around 55 per cent believe that they would recognise a security incident if they saw one.

Now, phishing could be defined as the fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by disguising oneself as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. Typically carried out by disguised email or instant messaging, it often directs users to enter personal information at a fake website which matches the look and feel of the legitimate one.

Of all the countries surveyed, Kenyans (75 per cent) and South Africans (74 per cent) were the most concerned about the risk of cyber crime and yet respondents were comfortable giving away their personal information as long as they understood what it was being used for (Kenyans 26.59 per cent and South Africans 57 per cent).

It is a worrying trend - many phishing scams will use any means necessary to tease out valuable nuggets of personal information and phone calls or emails from so-called trusted sources are among the most common methods used.

Some 53 per cent of Africans surveyed thought that trusting e-mails from people they know was good enough; 28 per cent had fallen for a phishing e-mail and 50 per cent had had a malware infection; 64 per cent didn't know what ransomware was and yet believed that they could easily identify a security threat; and 52 per cent didn't know what multi-factor authentication was.

The problem is that most users are not aware of how cyber criminals operate and the tools that they use. More than half of respondents across all eight countries felt very confident that



they would recognise a security incident or issue if they saw one, but a significant percentage have had a PC infection, and more than a quarter had fallen for a scam.

In South Africa, 50 per cent of respondents had their PCs infected, while in Kenya, Ghana and Egypt, this number rose to 67 per cent.

The KnowBe4 survey found that even though nearly half of respondents across all eight countries felt that their organisations had trained them adequately, a quarter of them didn't know what a ransomware was. For South Africans, a worrying 31.5 per cent

thought that a cyber threat that encrypts files and demands payments was a Trojan virus - and 26.9 per cent of Kenyans agreed. Egypt and Morocco thought it was a drive-by download, while Ghana thought it was a botnet.

More than 50 per cent of respondents are not aware of what multi-factor authentication is or the benefit thereof. Using stolen credentials was the third most common attack vector used in successful breaches and applying multi-factor authentication, which is combining your password with something that you own, such as a One-Time-Password app on your phone, which reduces this risk significantly.

E-mail security is one of the biggest threats facing the average user, both at work and at home, and it is one of the most common communication methods - more than 70 per cent of those surveyed use e-mail to collaborate with friends and colleagues.

Most people don't realise what a risky email looks like or how their actions can result in their systems becoming infected.

While more than half of respondents in Botswana, Egypt, Kenya, Ghana, Morocco and Mauritius have enough security smarts to avoid clicking on links

or opening attachments they don't expect, a startling 46 per cent still trusted e-mails from people they knew.

In South Africa, those statistics are completely turned around - more than half of respondents (52 per cent) trust e-mails from people they know, while only 49.5 per cent don't open attachments they have not expected.

E-mail remains one of the most successful forms of cyber attack today for this very reason. People are quick to click on links or attachments sent to them from people who they know, not realising that cyber criminals have potentially hacked or spoofed (impersonated) their friend's, colleague's or suppliers' systems to spread malware, or launch other forms of attacks.

Cyber criminals can easily mimic contact lists or use e-mail addresses that look as if they have come from trusted institutions, and a simple click can unleash a ransomware attack that can hold an entire company, government or home hostage. According to Verizon's 2019 Data Breach Report, email phishing is still the number one attack vector used in successful breaches. It is closely followed by malware infections and the use of stolen credentials - both of which are attack vectors commonly accomplished via phishing.

Phishing and social engineering attacks are not just limited to e-mail - they have spread to other communication channels such as WhatsApp and the phone. With WhatsApp use at more than 90 per cent in Africa, this is a serious concern.

Another myth around phishing scams is that they are badly written with terrible language and rude offers. While these still exist, they are no longer the norm. Cyber criminals have become incredibly sophisticated and prey on this lack of under-

standing.

Across all eight countries, more than a quarter of respondents checked for bad grammar and spelling to determine whether or not an e-mail was legitimate.

Interestingly, more than a quarter had also clicked on a phishing e-mail. It turns out that, indeed, Africa has been phished and will continue to fall prey to this insidious attack unless people recognise the need for training and a deeper understanding of security threats.

When looked at against the backdrop of how often they have been caught by a phishing email, it is clear that users still don't realise how easily they can fall prey to a well-designed e-mail.

The biggest concern is that this lack of awareness around cyber security impacts a person's life, identity and work.

Humans are one of the most common causes of a business being held by ransomware or crippled by malware, data breaches or plain financial fraud. Their inadvertent clicking on an attachment, sharing personal information or carrying an infection into work on their mobile device can cause these types of issues.

The survey found that more than 90 per cent of respondents used a smartphone and more than 70 per cent used a laptop computer to connect to the internet, using either data from their mobile network (more than 80 per cent) or through their home network.

However, more than a quarter of respondents connected their devices to the internet using a free Wi-Fi connection in a public space. This is risky, as cyber criminals make use of public places to trick people into connecting to their malicious hotspots in order to connect to the person's machine or to steal their information.

For organisations, it has become critical that they train employees around security best practices and the various methodologies used by cyber criminals.

People need to stop thinking that phishing and ransomware only happen to other people or big businesses - everyone is vulnerable. One of the reasons spam continues to rise in quantity is that it works often enough to be of value.

According to the September 2019 Cisco Talos Email and Web Reputation Centre report, the average spam volume for the year was 409.51 billion. That's compared with the paltry 68.90 billion e-mails that are legitimate. Spam works because somebody always clicks on the link.

Training in cyber security threats, methodologies, entry points and vulnerabilities has become critical for organisations. This not only helps to minimise the growing risk of human error that's allowing threats to bypass their complex and powerful security systems, but also helps to protect their employees.

The survey has highlighted the areas that are most vulnerable and where people need the most help in learning about cyber threats.

Employee training is definitely one of the most important points - employees are not aware of how their use of free Wi-Fi networks can potentially infect their organisations, nor are they as aware of e-mail and phishing threats as they believe.

It's also important to bust some of the most common security myths. Not all malicious e-mails are badly written; phishing is sophisticated and clever, and mobile devices can be infected.

The most common platforms used by respondents to connect with friends and colleagues were WhatsApp (more than 90 per cent) and email (more than 70 per cent), and both of these platforms have been compromised.

Educating users on how to strengthen their password practices by applying multi-factor authentication is another easy step to significantly reduce risks.

Education is key to ensuring that employees are aware of the risks, understand the threats and make more concerted efforts to protect themselves from infection.

• A KnowBe4 Africa dispatch filed from Johannesburg.

Global economy still slowing, dangerously vulnerable

SYDNEY and KUALA LUMPUR

IN an annual ritual early in the year, most major economic organizations have released forecasts for the global economy in 2020. Incredibly, almost as a reminder of where financial power resides in this day and age, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its forecasts at the World Economic Forum's 50th annual meeting in Davos.

Although the IMF revised its global economic growth prognosis slightly downwards from its October 2019 forecast, it still offers the most optimistic prospect of 3.3% growth in 2020. The World Bank's forecast of 2.5% - identical to the United Nations (UN) estimate - is the lowest, with the OECD's at 2.9%.

The IMF justified its optimism by improved market sentiments following the Phase One US-China Trade Deal and diminished fears of a 'no-deal Brexit'. Goldman Sachs describes these developments as 'A Break in the Clouds', forecasting global growth at 3.4% in 2020, while Morgan Stanley sees 'Calmer Waters Ahead', expecting 3.2% in 2020 and 3.5% in 2021.

Perils of 'talking up'

It is not unusual for these organizations to be optimistic: after all, they do not want to be seen as naysayers, or prophets of doom, especially if their pronouncements are later denounced as self-fulfilling prophecies.

But 'talking up the economy' can have grave consequences, as with the 2008-2009 global financial crisis (GFC). Then, the IMF revised its forecast upward in July 2007, a month before the US 'sub-prime' mortgage crisis morphed into the worst global downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Meanwhile, the OECD was confident that any US 'soft-landing' would be offset by robust European economic performance. Such forecasts fostered a false and ultimately dangerous sense of invulnerability and complacency before the storm broke.

Policymakers ignored warnings by the United Nations since 2005 about fundamental weaknesses, including growing global imbalances and the



debt-financed US housing bubble. As is now well known, the collapse of the US sub-prime mortgage market brought down world finance and, eventually, the global economy.

Hazards of forecasting

Thankfully, it is customary to include some cautionary notes with these annual forecasts, even when optimistic. For example, the IMF now warns of more downside risks, including geopolitical tensions, social unrest, trade tensions, and developing economies' financial turmoil.

Both the UN and the IMF fear that the climate crisis can trigger financial stress, further slowing economic growth. To make matters worse, ignoring fundamental weaknesses and focusing excessively on ephemeral short-term trends can be dangerously

misleading.

To be sure, forecasting is extremely hazardous, and sometimes compared unfavourably to astrology. Forecasters factor in plausible developments, but completely unpredictable 'black swan' events, such as the novel coronavirus pandemic, can upset even the best of forecasts.

Meanwhile, the World Bank warns of ballooning debt, both public and private. The UN and the World Bank also note that the sharp productivity growth slowdown since the GFC has reduced long-term growth and poverty reduction prospects; furthermore, high inequality will also delay such progress.

Both the UN and the IMF note that high and rising inequality also engenders greater social and political polarization, unrest and instability. Additionally, the UN also warns of deepening political polarization and growing scepticism about multilateralism as significant downside risks.

While the U.S. has stayed strong, some other major economies are facing recessions

But none mention that the long-run effects of income inequality on both consumption and output can be quite large, delaying economic recovery by limiting aggregate demand and capacity utilization.

Policy failure

Such fundamental weaknesses owe much to policy failures. Unlike the New Deal following the Great Depression of the 1930s, all too many contemporary policymakers shy away from addressing core problems, such as financial excesses, rising household debt, exorbitant executive salaries vis-à-vis stagnant, if not declining real wages, that also contributed to the GFC.

Low (negative) interest rates, due to unconventional monetary policy, especially 'quantitative easing' (QE), have not promoted productive investments, and allowed less-productive firms to survive. Thus, QE failed to boost productivity.

'Easy money' has been used for share buybacks, mergers, acquisitions and inflated executive remuneration. Thus, as before the GFC, 'fictitious capital' is being systemically generated once again, contributing to asset price bubbles and endangering financial stability.

'Easy money' from developed economies has also flowed to developing countries in search of better returns, making them more vulnerable, besides raising their indebtedness yet again.

QE has also contributed to rising inequality. Meanwhile, major central banks have exhausted much of their means for lending at very low or even negative interest rates as they have very limited room to cut interest rates further.

No fiscal saviour

Besides reducing overall revenue collection and marginal income tax rates, the long-standing trend from direct to indirect taxation has shifted tax incidence from incomes to consumption, largely at the expense of the middle class.

Pursuing fiscal austerity under various guises, governments have slashed social and infrastructure spending in favour of public-private partnerships skewed in favour of influential corporate interests. Fiscal austerity also slowed economic recovery and technology adoption to the detriment of productivity growth.

Such fiscal reforms have not only exacerbated inequality, but also kept countries and households in debt bondage. And as governments have less fiscal space with rising debt, their ability to respond to crises - financial, climate or pandemic - is severely compromised.

Missed opportunity

Had national policymakers, led by the G20, embraced the UN recommendation for a Global Green New Deal to stimulate recovery, address the climate crisis and reverse growing inequality, the global economy could have been put on a more inclusive and sustainable path.

Such hopes remain even more elusive in an increasingly fractured world where multilateralism itself has been discredited and deliberately undermined by ethno-populism's legitimization of jingoism.

Agencies

Steady, measured reforms would help Ethiopia reach its potential

BY STELLAH KWASI AND JAKKIE CILLIERS

SINCE the early 1990s Ethiopia has experienced reduced state repression, a relatively stable political climate, and has made encouraging strides to improve the living standards of its people. Education, health, infrastructure and economic growth have all improved, especially in the past decade.

These achievements were possible on the back of an average annual growth rate of more than 10% from 2007 to 2017, making it the fastest growing economy globally. The gains have come from a very low base however, and the government needs to do a lot more considering that the population is expected to grow rapidly from 107 million in 2018 to 175 million by 2040.

Like many African countries, Ethiopia still faces the fundamental task of providing for the basic needs of its population. In 2018, Ethiopia had more than 35 million people without access to clean and reliable water and at least 83 million people without improved sanitation.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, 60% to 80% of communicable diseases in Ethiopia are attributed to limited access to safe water and hygienic sanitation. Adequate provision of basic services is therefore central to human development in Ethiopia.

Like many African countries, Ethiopia still needs to provide for the basic needs of its population

Approximately 26 million people were estimated to be surviving on less than US\$1.90 per day in 2018 (the World Bank's extreme poverty threshold) and the country still struggles to ensure food security despite attempts to improve agricultural yields and productivity.

When it comes to education, quality and outcomes remain low because of inadequate human resources such as trained teachers. The rural areas of

the country are heavily affected across all these indicators.

A general sense of optimism followed the appointment of Abiy Ahmed Ali as leader of Ethiopia's governing coalition, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, in 2018. But recent events have clouded that sense of more political space and the promise of economic reforms, particularly simmering ethnic tensions.

The outlook for the next 20 years is fraught with uncertainty, but also great promise. To realise its potential, the government needs to strike a balance between the need for stability, a sustainable economic growth model suited to the country's development goals, and the demand for political reform.

Ethiopia's government has promoted a robust and thriving economy, but more needs to be done

New research by the Institute for Security Studies places Ethiopia's challenges in perspective and explores the potential long-term impact of political and economic reforms on the future of the country. The study, launched in Addis Ababa on 20 February, presents the country's likely growth trajectory and two alternative scenarios.

The first, an optimistic future called 'Abiyomics', sets out an inclusive political and governance transition. The government continues to make and encourage targeted investments in key sectors to boost economic and human development outcomes but steps away from its focus on large infrastructure projects.

The second scenario, called 'Dark Days', simulates a pessimistic situation where Ethiopia experiences an abrupt end to political stability. This era could be marked by the 2020 elections, or lack thereof.

The Abiyomics scenario significantly boosts human and economic outcomes by 2040. There would be roughly eight million fewer people surviving on less than US\$1.90 per day, per capita income would increase by US\$960 and the economy would be



Ensuring sustainable economic growth will take more than focusing on industry and large infrastructure projects. File photo

about US\$912 billion larger compared to the Current Path scenario in 2040.

Conversely, in the Dark Days scenario, the country's stability and political space shrinks, the economy deteriorates and the living standards of Ethiopians becomes worse - thus eroding the gains made so far. In this scenario Ethiopia's economic transformation and its coveted success story is derailed by political instability and violence, particularly the ethnic mobilisations

evident in key regions.

There is no doubt that the government of Ethiopia has promoted a robust and thriving economy. But more needs to be done to ensure sustainable economic growth besides the focus on industry and large infrastructure projects.

Greater emphasis on promoting broader human development is key to ensuring continued progress. This includes improving the quality of education, provision of basic infrastructure, pro-

moting gender equality, improving food security and more inclusive and accountable governance.

There is, however, a risk that as the country opens up and seeks to shed its authoritarian characteristics, it becomes less stable, as is already evident. Troubled times lie ahead and Abiy's government (or that of a possible new leader after this year's elections) must carry out reforms in a steady and measured manner to reduce polarisation, manage politics and focus attention on the future.

Agencies

Death and duplicity in South Sudan: Lessons for Africa

By Thozamile Botha

ON 16 October 2016, the vice-president of South Sudan, Dr Riek Machar landed at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport from Addis Ababa as a guest of the South African government, seeking political asylum. He arrived with his wife, Angelina Teny, and a team of security personnel. He was offered security protection by South Africa, including living expenses.

His arrival followed a 40-day-long walk through a thick forest infested with animals and venomous snakes, and across rivers from Juba, in South Sudan, to the Democratic Republic of Congo border. This was a consequence of a shooting incident at the South Sudan Presidential State House on 8 May 2016 between President Salva Kiir's armed forces and Machar's protection unit.

I had the opportunity to interview Machar and the members of his entourage who had been with him throughout his ordeal.

He gave me his background before he became involved in politics. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Khartoum. He completed his Master's Degree at my alma mater, the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, in Production Management and Manufacturing Technology. He went on to obtain a PhD at Bradford University in Strategic Planning and Complex Mathematical Formulae. He returned to Sudan and lectured at the University of Khartoum before becoming a full-time political activist. The tall, dark, friendly woman accompanying him is his wife, Angelina Teny. She is a university graduate, a political activist, a former deputy minister in the Kiir government and a senior member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

As a political activist myself, I was curious to know why he was visiting South Africa and what problems in South Sudan had led to the shooting of 8 May 2016.

Machar and his wife gave me the background to the South Sudan political scenario. He also invited his chief of staff and senior security officer to join the conversation and to answer questions. This article is a product of that discussion, which was aimed at getting a better understanding of the way African leaders approach complex socio-political problems.

Background

The trouble in South Sudan began with the implementation or lack thereof of the transitional arrangements of 2005 before Sudan as a single country was formally divided into North and South. South Sudan was treated as a region before the national election of 2005, which was for the whole of the undivided Sudan.

Salva Kiir was put forward by SPLM as their interim regional leader and presidential candidate who would take the party through the process of drafting the constitution and the transition to democracy in South Sudan, which later became a sovereign state.

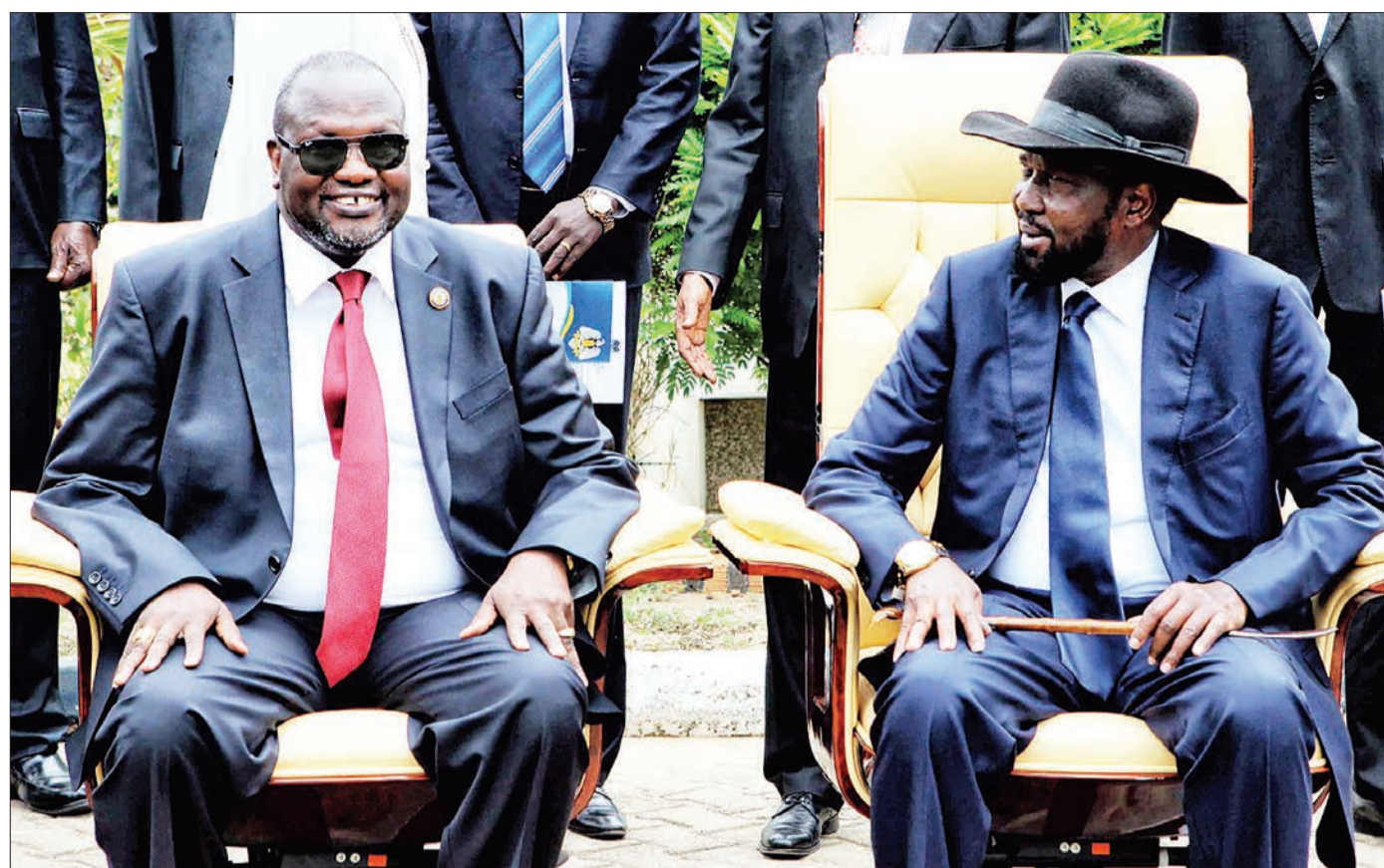
The SPLM assumed that Kiir, if given two terms at the helm of the party, would take them through the transitional arrangements from 2005 to 2010 and from 2010 to 2015's national elections.

Hence the SPLM, in trust, put his name forward again in 2010 to continue as interim president of South Sudan, believing he would facilitate the constitution-drafting process with no vested interest. This was based on the assumption that he would have served his two terms by the end of 2015 and would not contest for the presidency in 2015.

It was in this period that trouble started between Kiir and the first vice-president, Machar. The latter believed that he would become the party's presidential candidate in 2015 following the party convention leading up to the election.

In 2010, South Sudan held its first national election as a country. The SPLM nominated Kiir as its presidential candidate in the hope that he would take them through the process of drafting the constitution and end the war that had ravaged the country for so many years.

Machar was Kiir's running mate as a vice-presidential candidate. The interim constitution of South Sudan, which was agreed to before the elections, restricted the president to two terms. But, after the elections, Kiir scrapped the constitution and unilaterally made significant amendments without consulting the electorate or even his party. He refused to accept dissenting views from his own



party and ministers.

As stated above, after the referendum of 2005 which gave South Sudan the right to self-determination, a set of principles was developed and agreed to by all the parties to the conflict. Among these principles was that the country would have a federal system of government in which the country would be divided into 10 regions, the president would be directly elected by the people of South Sudan, the governors of the regions would be directly elected by the regions and the speaker of the legislature would be elected by the National Assembly.

These principles culminated in the "The Resolution of the Conflict In The Republic Of South Sudan" document signed on 17 August 2015, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The implementation of this agreement was to be coordinated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

The peace agreement in South Sudan was signed between the government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS), the South Sudan Armed Forces, Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army, SPLM leaders, SPLM/SPLA, the other political parties of South Sudan in their individual capacities, the women's bloc, representatives of CSOs, faith-based leaders and eminent personalities.

These parties committed themselves to uphold enduring peace and stability in the Republic of South Sudan. They further accepted the immediate need to end the conflict that had been ravaging South Sudan since 15 December 2013.

The parties also accepted a federal system of government for the Republic of South Sudan where the country was to be divided into 10 regions. They all committed to build an inclusive and democratic society founded on the rule of law.

Kiir was uncomfortable with these provisions from the beginning. He refused to sign the agreement initially and when he finally decided to sign he proposed conditions, which were rejected by the Joint Peace Monitoring Committee, chaired by former Botswana president Festus Mogae. This was the beginning of the tension between Kiir and Machar.

Opening the plenary meeting of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), on 19 October 2016 in Juba, Mogae made the observation that an unfortunate sequence of events had unfolded in South Sudan and the fragile peace had deteriorated into open hostilities.

"The resolve of the JMEC to implement the agreement is being put to the test," he lamented.

He further noted that there was a regrettable delay in the establishment of the Transitional Security Arrangement as well as "dysfunctionality of critical mechanisms and a growing incidence of ceasefire violations".

However, after the 2010 elections in South Sudan, a Government of National Unity was formed in which Machar's SPLM was given 10 ministers and two deputy ministers. Other parties were also given two ministers and deputies.

Between 2010 and 2013 this Government of National Unity proved to be on a shaky foundation. The party leadership wanted a national convention, which was long overdue, to be convened to address the leadership contest. When Kiir felt the pressure from the Machar faction in the Polit-

South Sudan President Salva Kiir (R) and former rebel leader and First Vice-President Riek Machar attend a ceremony after a new unity government was sworn-in. FILE PHOTO

buro calling for the convention, he became suspicious and angry and dissolved the Cabinet.

Machar remained as deputy chair of the party but without a government executive portfolio, angering the Machar faction of the party. On 16 December 2013, Machar and his forces left Juba for the north of South Sudan to pursue the armed struggle out of frustration with what they perceived as the dictatorial tendencies of Kiir.

Some of the former detainee ministers refused to join the two major factions, preferring to pursue a peaceful solution rather than armed struggle, albeit outside of government. Machar believed that there was no point in pursuing a peaceful path to democracy in light of the aggressive behaviour displayed by Kiir towards opposition parties.

The Machar group expected that the regional African leaders would intervene to mediate, as Kiir had violated the peace agreement. But the regional leaders remained silent.

Events leading to 8 July 2016

The 2005 agreement following the referendum that gave South Sudan the right to self-determination, stipulated that the exercise of self-determination be conducted under an elected government. Kiir was nominated by SPLM to be the president for the transitional government, that would take them to the finalisation of the draft constitution of the country from 2005 to 2015.

In the elections of 2010, the SPLM nominated Kiir to continue as president of the country until the constitution and the peace process were finalised. It was then decided that the party would convene a national convention in May 2013 where a new leadership would be elected.

In the spirit of comradeship, Kiir and Machar were running mates in the 2010 elections. It should also be noted that members of the Politburo were also cabinet ministers and governors of the states.

Kiir was uncomfortable with convening a convention that could result in his replacement as chairman of the party. The convention was scheduled to take place in May 2013, but this did not happen. Instead, in July 2013 Kiir dissolved his Cabinet and replaced the elected regional governors with hand-picked individuals.

In North Sudan, there was also an agreement to move towards a constitutional state and away from the Islamic state with appointed regional governors. The intention was to strengthen democracy and move away from tribal and ethnic-based regional governments. The regional governments which were answerable to Khartoum had been seen as instruments of oppression and corruption. However, President Omar al-Bashir ignored that agreement and continued to appoint regional governors and reverted to an Islamic state.

The route Kiir was taking was in

line with what Bashir was doing in the north. It is interesting to note the silence of the AU and the African leaders on the deviation by Bashir from this agreement. It is therefore not surprising that Kiir felt he could follow in the footsteps of his former boss by violating the peace agreement with impunity.

These violations of the peace agreement and the constitutional principles forced Machar to the north of South Sudan to continue with the war on 16 December 2013. Instead of condemning and putting pressure on Kiir, African leaders mounted pressure on Machar to return to the government of South Sudan to pursue the peace process from within the establishment.

Following pressure from the regional African leaders, Machar arrived in Juba from Gambella in Ethiopia on 26 April 2016 and took an oath of office as vice-president of South Sudan. His conditions for returning to the country included confinement of troops to cantonments, return of the 10-states proposal agreed to in the peace agreement, and respect for the principles enshrined in the peace agreement ensuring that state representatives were elected and not appointed by the president.

On 8 July 2016, Machar was summoned to State House by Kiir. He agreed to the meeting, but was worried that this was not the normal scheduled Cabinet meeting which took place once a week. He raised his fears with the Peace Coordinating Committee and requested them to accompany him to the meeting.

On arrival at the ministerial precinct, he noticed a strong presence of armed government soldiers. However, he continued to the designated venue where he waited for Kiir, who reportedly was delayed at another meeting. Kiir finally arrived at the venue much later that evening.

Within minutes after the arrival of the president and the second vice-president, government soldiers started shooting at Machar's security personnel. In just over an hour 100 armed personnel from both sides were dead. All this took place while the president and two of his deputies were locked in discussions in the Cabinet Room.

Inside the meeting room, discussions were suspended to attend to the crisis outside. Machar is reported to have asked Kiir to tell the chief of staff of the defence force to ceasefire. Kiir instead called for the suspension of the meeting and told Machar to leave the room and walk to his vehicle in the midst of the shooting.

Machar's bodyguards, who had forced their way into the meeting room, intervened. They called on Kiir to accompany Machar to his car. Machar's bodyguards threatened that if Kiir failed to obey they would be forced to kill Kiir and the first and second vice-presidents.

Kiir succumbed to the pressure and, accompanied by a senior defence force officer, walked Machar

to a military vehicle and out of the presidential precinct. They came to a roadblock, and the commander demanded to know who was in the vehicle. When he was told that it was Machar he shouted, "What does this man want here? He should have been killed inside."

This proved to Machar that the so-called meeting between the president and the vice-president was a plot orchestrated by Kiir to kill him.

The following day the army harassed and killed civilians in the streets of Juba, and on the night of 9 July, Machar's house was bombed by the army - fortunately, he was not inside.

Machar and his wife managed to escape unharmed out of Juba and walked for 40 days towards the Democratic Republic of Congo protected by about 1,000 soldiers from Machar's camp. They were pursued throughout by Kiir's forces using drones and helicopters. More than 100 of Machar's soldiers died and an undisclosed number of the armed opposition forces were injured.

Some of the soldiers were killed by insects, snakes, and from eating poisonous plants when they ran out of food supplies. Some drowned when they tried to cross dangerous rivers. Machar himself lost energy and his leg gave in and he had to be carried for some distance on a makeshift stretcher.

They were pursued until they crossed the border with DRC. Throughout this time they struggled to communicate with the outside world as any electronic communication would have given away their hideouts. After they crossed the border they called the United Nations Peace Mission in South Sudan to airlift them to Khartoum. Later they were flown to Addis Ababa and finally to Johannesburg.

The breach of the peace agreement

Kiir has shown a deep inclination towards ethnic mobilisation rather than national peace and social cohesion. On 19 October 2016, he issued an order following a meeting of the Presidency which included himself, First Vice-President Taban Deng Gai and Vice-President James Wani Igga, announcing the reinstatement of all civil servants who defected or abandoned their positions when conflict broke out in 2013.

He also announced the establishment of four cantonment sites in the Equatoria region. He further announced that the number of states would be increased from 10 to an undetermined number, which later became known as the 28 states.

Following the non-compliance with the peace agreement, Botswana's President Mogae was appointed to evaluate the state of affairs in South Sudan. In his report-back meeting he drew the attention of the African leaders to what he termed "egregious violations of human rights, including rape, gang rape, looting, intimidation and harassment of civil society and the media, and the killing of civilians" (19 October 2016).

He underscored the need for an inclusive peace process which would lead to an enduring and sustainable peace in South Sudan. We "do not make peace with our friends; we reconcile with those with whom we disagree," he stated. As if to endorse the JMEC declaration, the deputy minister of labour and public service in Kiir's government, Nasike Allan Lochul, resigned in December 2016, citing lack of political will on the part of Kiir and members of the administration to implement the 2015 peace agreement.

The deputy minister immediately declared her allegiance to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) under the leadership of Machar, which she said was an organisation working to avert a catastrophic collapse of the nation.

In 2013, when the members of the SPLM protested against violations, Kiir contrived a story of an attempted coup and solicited sup-

port from Uganda. President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda sent 1,370 soldiers supported by helicopters using cluster bombs and gunships to quell the rebellion which was triggered by Kiir's violation of the constitutional principles. The soldiers killed members of civil society along ethnic lines.

Machar argues that there was no way not to fight back as this war had assumed a tribal dimension, with the Dinka turning against the Nuer and other minority ethnic groups.

The situation developed into a state of mutiny in the military, and according to Machar, about 75% of the soldiers and a large section of the civil service joined his forces when he moved to the north of South Sudan to prosecute the struggle from there.

There were, however, a number of ministers and deputy ministers who refused to join the war even though they did not agree with Kiir. It is alleged that they were encouraged by the US to form a third force against the SPLM-IO led by Machar. The leaders of the AU who were tasked with bringing about peace in South Sudan, without condemning the actions of Kiir, put pressure on Machar to return to the peace process and to stop the war. He consented.

There are a number of fundamental principles which Kiir violated. First, he refused to follow the guidelines towards the drafting of the constitution of the country. Second, he removed from office elected representatives of the regions and appointed his lackeys. Third, he increased the number of states from 10 to 28 without consulting with leaders of opposition groups and representatives of civil society.

And fourth, he refused to confine his forces to the proposed cantonments in terms of the peace agreement - instead, he chose to establish cantonments in the Nuer region and other minorities while the Dinka were let loose.

Conclusion

The fundamental question that arises from this article is, what motivates African leaders to violate their own constitutions and resort to dictatorship? In my view, it is not the love of power for power's sake: it is the desire to use power to accumulate personal wealth at the expense of their citizens. Tribalism and ethnicity become useful instruments to entrench the hegemonic power base of the leader to hide extortion of the nation's wealth. While many African leaders often trample on the constitution of their country, this is not sufficient basis for leaders to be corrupt and to exercise nepotism.

Changing the constitution is not a prerequisite for corruption and abuse of power; corruption exists even in societies where there is rule of law with strong democratic institutions. However, in many African countries, the changing of the constitution is designed to enable the leaders to weaken the institutions that provide checks and balances in order to create conditions necessary to accumulate personal wealth through corrupt practices.

The incumbent president of an African state is capable of orchestrating plots as a device to justify liquidating opposition parties and leaders and carry out arbitrary arrests and torture of critics of his government. Ahmed Sékou Touré created plots which were used as a pretext to liquidate his opponents in Guinea. Some of those plots were contrived and others were simply fictitious, according to the author Martin Meredith.

In the absence of the rule of law, the constitution and a bill of rights, African leaders have a licence to act arbitrarily. Consequently, a sub-culture of kleptomania develops among the ruling elite and the public servants. This constitutional lacuna enables African leaders to silence opposition parties and civil society using their security forces.

AGENCIES

Tanzanians urged to use social media platforms wisely

By Guardian Correspondent, Kondo

TANZANIANS have been urged to maintain the proper use of social media platforms including Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Youtube and Tweeter to boost up their lives.

Chairperson of Haki Maendeleo, Wilfred Warioba made the advise when speaking during the training organized recently by Kondo Community Network (KCN) in Kondo District, Dodoma Region aiming at educating groups of small entrepreneurs on the proper use of social media

platforms. Warioba said despite of many opportunities provided by social media platforms, but still there are challenges implicating the process of news sharing in social media. Warioba said it is important for citizens to take precautions when exchanging information in social media, saying

that would help them to reduce chaos within communities.

He continued to explain that misusing of social media is against the law, and whoever found commits such an offence will be charged according to the law of the country.

"It is imperative for social me-

dia users to confirm stories they receive before sharing them to others, by doing so it will help you escaping from violating the laws", Warioba said

However, Warioba insisted that social media platforms have created opportunities that could help citizens to engage them-

selves into various activities to boost their earnings.

Participants who attended the training asked authorities to enforce proper system that would help to protect social media users from dishonest people saying recently emerged con people who hack other people's phone

contacts for bad intentions, including soliciting money from them illegally. In recent years social media platforms has been a hub of getting information in the country and all of over world, but the challenge remain from people who use spread fake news and scandalize others.

French Group Rossignol planning to plant 25,000 trees in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ROSSIGNOL Group, a French company manufacturing winter sports equipment, is committed to planting 25,000 trees in Tanzania in an initiative called "Respect" programme that is part of the group's environmental and social responsibility activities.

The programme aims to contribute to the fight against global warming by reducing the carbon footprint of the company by 30% by 2030. Rossignol will give a boost to Tanzania's reforestation policy. The French winter sports equipment manufacturer has just announced a major programme to plant 25,000 trees in Tanzania from 2020, in partnership with Reforest'Action, a French company whose mission is to protect the environment and combat deforestation.

It is good news for Tanzania, where the authorities have launched a new programme aimed at transforming the main forests into "forests under high protection" to prevent the country from turning into a desert.

In 2017, the country recorded one of the highest deforestation rates in East Africa: around 373,000 hectares per year.

"Biomass energy currently provides 92%

of the country's energy needs, which leads to unsustainable use of forest resources," says Florian Mkeya, head of natural forests at the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

The project to plant 25,000 trees in Tanzania is part of the "Respect" strategy, Rossignol's programme of environmental and societal commitments.

"Our environmental progress programme requires the Rossignol Group to do better, wherever we can. We are now embarking on a structured approach aligned with the European objectives for reducing carbon emissions," says Bruno Cercley, Chairman of the Rossignol Group. Awareness-raising campaigns for the protection of mountains in France are also included in the "Respect" project, whose objective is to contribute to the fight against global warming by reducing Rossignol's carbon footprint by 30% by 2030 and aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050.

With a workforce of 392 employees and a turnover of 249,290,000 euros over the period 2018-2019, the Rossignol Group has reaffirmed its commitment to the environment by joining the "Fashion Pact", launched in 2019 in France on the sidelines of the G7 summit.



Paul Eardley-Taylor, Stanbic Bank's Head of Oil and Gas, speaks at a recent breakfast session in Dar es Salaam on opportunities resulting from the implementation of the Mozambique Liquefied Natural Gas project. He said the bank was committed to facilitating investment in the oil and gas sector as part of a strategy to promote industrialisation and economic growth. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent Mbeya

THE Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA) has granted US\$42,000 to Mbeya-based youth non-governmental organization -Youth Education Through Sports Tanzania (YES TZ) for institutional support.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, YES-TZ Executive Director Kenneth Simbaya said the grant is to be used for organizational development and training young people on human rights.

The grant will also help in strengthening YES TZ institution

Mbeya youth organisation gets a new push

capacity to enable it realize its mission and vision, according to Simbaya

"YES TZ invests in harnessing young people's potential for the benefits of themselves (young people) and their societies at large," he said, adding: "Young people should not be viewed as a problem to be addressed; they are a precious resource any nation can have."

He said: "YES TZ is working hard to empower young people with knowledge and skills, so that

they can make informed choices regarding their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, promoting democracy and good governance by stimulating young people participation and engagement, build the capacity and culture of entrepreneurship to Tanzanian youth.

He further said that the support is also geared towards strengthening the organization's institution capacity to enable it realize its mission and vision.

Commenting on sexual repro-

ductive health, Simbaya underscored the importance of providing children and young people skills and information to protect their sexual reproductive health, reduce their vulnerability to HIV, unwanted and teenage pregnancies.

"The facts speak for themselves, teenage pregnancies are increasing, adolescents and young girls are hard hit by HIV infections," he pointed out.

He added that children and young people are central to im-

proving sexual and reproductive health trends and reversing national and global HIV rates as well transforming the country's economy if the country continues investing on them.

"To reach rural young people and the hard to reach, YES TZ uses peer education, carefully selecting young people and training them to act as volunteer peer educators and mentors to their peers. In the last project YES TZ recruited 36 volunteer peer educators who in turn reached 4,925

young people 2,128 boys and 2,797 girls from 9 wards in Mbeya and Songwe regions."

Speaking on the importance of volunteering Wende Mtekele, a volunteer at YES TZ said volunteering has benefited her tremendously. "Am a living example on the benefits of volunteering, my leadership skills are unfolding day after day," Wende said at the press conference.

For her part, Katie Lauren Dunbar, also a volunteer at YES TZ said that volunteering has benefits to

both the individual volunteering and the community where that volunteering service is offered.

"Through volunteering I have been able to increase my knowledge in several areas, meet and connect with so many people and learn from them," said Katie appealing to young people to spare time for volunteering.

OSIEA was founded in 2005 as a part of the global Open Society Foundations (OSF) network. OSIEA's vision is 'a just, inclusive and vibrant Eastern Africa where all people live in dignity, equality and participate meaningfully in society.

8-year-old Tanzanian girl survives rare tumour

NEW DELHI

AN eight-year-old girl from Tanzania, who was recently diagnosed with a rare cricket ball size cancerous brain tumour, got a new lease of life in India. BLK Super Specialty Hospital's neurosurgeons performed a six-hour-long microsurgical complete excision of large brain tumour with neuro navigation.

"The patient Joyford Honest John was admitted to the hospital with complaints of recurrent seizures, vomiting, aphasia, urinary incontinence, diminution of vision, and right side weakness of the body.

"Brain tumors are rare in kids specifically and such large size tumors are rarest. In Joyford's case, this highly vascular tumour presented several risks of surgery including the risk of paralysis of a limb or any other neurological deficit.

Excess bleeding during surgery was also a major risk. With a thought-through process, we planned a microscopic resection of the tumor. Surgery was successful and post-operative patient was perfectly fine without any neurological complication, which was a major risk in this case," said Dr. Anil

Kansal.

Doctors at a city hospital using 3D printing technology reconstructed jawbone of 30-year-old's cancer survivor. Doctors said that it was a unique and first of its kind procedure to reconstruct a jaw using 3D Printing technology and the titanium jaw was constructed and implanted onto the patient. Now, it gave him complete control over his mouth, which allowed him to chew food properly after seven years since his jaw was removed due to cancer.

According to doctors, Prabhjeet - a corporate executive and cancer survivor from Faridabad - had been living without right half of his jawbone for more than seven years. It was removed during a surgery along with temporomandibular (TM) joint to cure him of cancer.

Talking about the procedure, head of department, head, neck and breast oncology, Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj, Dr Mandeep S Malhotra said:

"The underlying SLE disease and reconstruction of the TM joint discouraged us from planning the conventional methodology of using the one's own lower leg bone in form of Fibula to reconstruct the jawbone.



Youth Education Through Sports Tanzania (YES TZ) executive director Kenneth Simbaya (C) briefs journalists in Mbeya city yesterday on the grant his organisation has landed from the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA). Photo courtesy of YES TZ

Chinese city Xiantao goes full stretch in war on coronavirus epidemic

By He Guanghua and Hou Linliang

XIANTAO in central China's Hubei Province has played its part in the nationwide battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic through curbing the virus and producing medical materials in full swing.

Xiantao is known as China's famous industrial city of nonwovens as it abounds with non-woven fabrics. The city is also a member of the Wuhan City Circle, a regional economic union with Wuhan, the epicenter of the novel coronavirus epidemic, being the center.

On Feb. 8, Xiantao, the county-level city managed to increase its daily output of medical protective clothing to 30,000, a figure that seemed impossible in the past.

Although it abounds with non-woven fabrics, Xiantao has very few manufacturers that can handle the whole process of production of medical protective clothing. Some local companies can only provide raw materials or semi-finished products.

At present, the whole country, especially Wuhan, is face with a shortage in medical supplies. "We are going to fulfill the task whether we have the conditions or not. There's no turning back but only mission and responsibility for us in front of the epidemic," said Zhou Zhihong, secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Xiantao municipal committee, after receiving the order from the provincial government of Hubei.

In an effort to improve production capacity, Xiantao has spared no effort to mobilize the whole city and make scientific arrangements to speed up production of relevant supplies and make full use of every minute.

The city has ensured overall coordination and unified procurement



Photo taken on Feb. 8 shows workers busy with production of medical protective supplies in a workshop of a local company in Xiantao, central China's Hubei Province. (Hou Linliang/People's Daily)

of equipment, unified supply of raw materials, unified protection and accommodation for employees, unified inspection, test and quarantine, unified loading and transportation, and unified budgetary appropriations for designated enterprises.

Meanwhile, the city has launched dedicated work teams to guarantee production of relevant supplies. Each team has been stationed in one local factory to organize production on site.

According to Yan Zhichao, deputy mayor of Xiantao, a total of ten local

enterprises have been involved in the production of medical protective clothing, with one of which providing raw materials and the other nine producing semi-finished products. All of the products were handed over to Winner Medical Group Inc., a provider of medical supplies headquartered in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, to go through procedures such as disinfection.

Production standards of medical protective clothing are extremely strict, especially those concerning joining two pieces of cloth together with a strip, according to Jiang Aiping, a quality inspector, explaining that only by sticking strips on relevant areas can the cloth be joined together and the effect of the clothing be strengthened.

"It looks simply, but skilled workers are not easy to find," said Jiang, while demonstrating the process of pasting strips.

"It's difficult to recruit workers during the Spring Festival holiday, and it's even more difficult to find workers to stick the strips," added Sun Aimin, a staff member who stood nearby.

On Jan. 24, the eve of the Spring Festival, Xiantao started to mobilize resources for the production of medical protective clothing across the city. After a comprehensive survey, it was found out that there were only 70 skilled workers who can stick the strips on medical protective clothing and only 40 machines for the job.

A skilled worker can only handle the strips of up to 200 medical protective clothes a day even at full capacity, a speed which is too slow for achieving the goal of a daily output of 30,000.

Under such circumstances, Hu Changwei, secretary of the Party committee of Pengchang town, Xiantao, who has been stationed in a local company for the production of medical protective clothing, braced himself to create conditions to achieve the production target.

Hu asked manufacturers of relevant equipment about information of the buyers, and then looked for skilled workers in relevant cities to stick strips on medical protective clothing. He called these workers, offering them three times the pay and inviting them to work in Xiantao.

Hu sent cars to pick up workers in other provinces, and finally invited more than 150 workers from provinces including central China's Hunan Province, east China's Jiangxi Province, and central China's Henan Province.

At the same time, Hu organized training for over 200 local work-

ers, and purchased more than 190 machines for sticking strips from cities including Jiangmen, Guangdong Province, through efforts of multiple parties.

Medical protective clothes are armors for medical workers. From cloth to finished products, each piece of these clothes involves as many as 20 manufacturing procedures. Every procedure must be carried out with special care, for even the slightest carelessness would ruin the clothes.

Winner Medical Group has sent more than 20 quality inspectors to Xiantao. Quality inspectors usually don't drink much water, so as not to waste time by going to the toilet, disclosed Feng Dan, a quality inspector.

"Even a gap as small as a needle eye is not acceptable," stressed Feng, who pays close attention to every piece of clothes in her hands.

With amazing sense of responsibility and unrelenting efforts, Xiantao created marvelous results. Since the city resumed production on Jan. 24, the eve of Spring Festival, it increased the daily production of protective clothing to 7,000 pieces on Jan. 29, to 15,000 by Feb.10 and to 30,000 on Feb. 8.

"At the thought of the doctors and nurses trying all out to save lives in ICUs, we know we must rise to the difficulties in production and provide armors for them, so that we can defeat the epidemic at an early date," said Zhou, who disclosed that the biggest challenge for Xiantao is the current traffic restrictions for vehicles, as the city has to purchase raw materials from other provinces. *People's Daily*

Bold leadership required to end South Africa's job crisis

By Busi Mavuso

WHILE jobs have been created and new industries have emerged as South Africa's economy has modernised, there has still been growing joblessness. At the end of the last global recession, the state took up the mantle of creating jobs as the private sector recovered from the financial crisis.

It was never sustainable and, as such, President Cyril Ramaphosa's frank admission in last week's State of the Nation Address that the state can't solve the jobs challenge alone is welcomed.

"Even if we were to marshal every single resource at our disposal and engage on a huge expenditure of public funds, we would not alone be able to guarantee employment to the millions of people who are out of work,"

he said.

Our jobless rate was 29.1% in the fourth quarter, according to Statistics SA. Of the 1.2 million young people who enter the labour market each year, approximately two-thirds remain outside of employment, education and training. Including discouraged work seekers and those who are available to work but have stopped looking, we have an unemployment rate that has increased to 38.7%.

As the president pointed out, more than half of our young people are unemployed.

"We need to make this country work for young people, so that they can work for our country," he said.

Unemployment really took root in the mid-1980s when South Africa experienced deindustrialisation as a result of international sanctions. At that point, manufacturing, which is the

highest job multiplier of any sector, according to the World Bank, made up about 27% of the South African economy. That has plunged to 13.9%.

Even through our high growth years, where we had economic growth averaging 5% between 2004 and 2007, our unemployment remained above 20%.

Over the past three decades, there have been significant changes in the global economy, with the most significant being the rise of China. Its rise was fuelled by a manufacturing and export-driven growth model that has made the entire world consumers of its products. It has been hard for regions to compete with China's population density that has served to keep its labour costs the most competitive.

Having touched on that global context that has fed into our jobs crisis, the question is, what have we done as a nation to mitigate the changing



sands? In the policy environment, we have drafted a number of economic plans to ensure that we maintain a competitive edge. These plans were largely heralded at their respective launches. The evolution of such plans, however, has been delayed or altogether halted by the factional battles in the governing party.

What mattered more in the political contests of the past decade were the people in the room when such plans were drafted.

Last August, National Treasury produced a 77-page paper entitled "Economic Transformation, Inclusive Growth and Competitiveness". Despite criticisms of how the document was conceived, it served as an economic blueprint of the "new dawn" and came with the sort of reforms that would unlock greater job opportunities.

We had hoped that with the change of leadership in the ANC over the past two years that the structural reforms long proposed in our labour markets, energy and telecommunications would now be pushed forward with

less regard for factional battle lines.

So we are most pleased with the president's commitment to undertaking far-reaching economic reforms included in National Treasury's paper. By so doing, he provides a level of certainty to macro-policy at least that has been sorely lacking, especially in the past decade. That uncertainty has weighed negatively on our prospects in this fiercely competitive global economy.

It makes for quite a concoction: a jobs crisis since the mid-1980s, an uncertain policy environment and a growth crisis fuelled by an inability to power the economy.

The economy is likely to hit its sixth consecutive year of growth below 1%, with Moody's Investors Services now pencilling 0.7% growth for this year.

The dual catastrophes of our unemployment and growth situations can only be met by leadership with a will to make the right but perhaps politically less palatable choices. The constant jostling for places at the big table has weakened policy proposals such as that of National Treasury's that aim to deal with long-standing structural

unemployment and other important issues.

Our political theatre of the past decade in particular, while entertaining for our Sunday papers, has certainly not served in the pursuit of a better life for all. This is especially so in this fiercely competitive global environment.

While the solutions to our jobless rate are understandably long-term in nature, we have an immediate challenge to get the South African economy on a path of inclusive growth. Without it, as the president said last week, "there will be no jobs, and without jobs there will be no meaningful improvement in the lives of our people".

What has held back higher growth rates in South Africa is plummeting confidence levels. But if the president, party and state back National Treasury's proposals and steer the country to a more secure policy environment, we may just have found the missing ingredient to rising confidence and, in turn, growth.

Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =053=

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

5 letter word: SHY, YEN, SUM
 4 letter word: ISLE, NOOK, SEEK, RAGE, MINE, AMID
 HALT, ALSO, SEMI, AREA
 5 letter word: ALIEN, HOARD, MADAM, DEMON
 6 letter word: MANURE, MATURE, RODENT, STREAM
 7 letter word: ENGLISH, TANGENT,
 8 letter word: TONE DEAF, RAREFIED
 11 letter word: NONETHELESS

WORD FIT

OKYIGENATEP BUCHARESTS
 TREASURERE PRE LOEDRON
 AVIATEAM BUYERASTROT
 IMAGINARYC ENTLESTICURE
 CLOSERH ELLASTICURE
 CLAVIANNERS UNGUINASET
 PANANER AMEGABETA
 DIAGRIL SKYSELESH
 GODSIZAL TENSSELL
 HANDLEYN FOLLSH

Comments: 0789 4373 06

Clues: Across
 1 Medium of exchange in the form of coins (5)
 6 Rough (7)
 7 Islamic law (6)
 8 associated with which person (5)
 9 Foolish person (8)
 13 Person with a specified role in India (6)
 14 Suffix forming adjectives (4)
 16 Broad, shallow crater (4)
 17 Person who fails frequently (5)
 18 Masai house (7)
 20 Request or need forcefully (6)
 24 later division of the Tertiary period (7)
 25 Break law (8)
 26 Not dry (3)

Down:
 1 Chief city of Russia (6)
 2 Former name of Malawi (9)
 3 dark-skinned (5)
 4 Waterproof jacket (7)
 5 Tire (4)
 6 Wife of Abraham (5)
 10 Mother (4)
 11 the lowest layer of ionosphere (1-5)
 12 forbidden by Islamic law (5)
 14 Consume (3) 15 Skill (3)
 17 narrow road in rural area (4)
 18 Advantage (5)
 19 Second largest port in Tanzania (5)
 21 Signs and symbols (4)
 22 miaow (4)
 23 Flesh of an animal (4)

NMB TEAMS UP WITH FOUR INSURANCE COMPANIES TO OFFER PROPERTY INSURANCE

By Property Watch Reporter

CONSUMERS can now get insurance services for their property and lives from any of the 224 NMB Bank Plc physical branches countrywide thanks to a partnership forged with four insurance companies.

The bank which unveiled its bancassurance products in Dar es Salaam this week said it has signed agreements with National Insurance Corporation, Zanzibar Insurance Corporation, Reliance Insurance Tanzania Limited, Sanlam Life, Jubilee Insurance and UAP Insurance to provide such services.

Speaking during the launch, NMB's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi said the new product will help consumers in the market countrywide to easily insure their property such as houses, motor vehicles and lives against any risks.

"Although insurance penetration has improved very much in recent years, we still see a lot of opportunity to tap this market because of growing public demand for the services and products. We are simply exploiting the opportunity to take the services closer to their door steps," said Mponzi.

He invited the public to visit NMB branches countrywide and seek the bancassurance products and services that will guarantee them recovery of property when destroyed or lost while providing life cover for assured people when they become incapacitated to work or die.

"Our clients now have the luxury of



This NMB Igunga branch in Tabora region is one of the 224 countrywide that will offer bancassurance services. File photo.

getting banking and insurance services and products under one roof at our branches countrywide," the NMB CRB noted while paying tribute to Bank of Tanzania and Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority for approving the bank's application to offer bancassurance services.

Mponzi's observation was backed by the bank's Senior

Manager for Insurance, Martin Massawe who promised customers and the general public to get quality bancassurance services.

"We promise Tanzanians that they will get quality bancassurance services at all our branches where we have highly qualified and experienced personnel," Massawe said.

Speaking at the launch, Com-

missioner of Insurance, Dr Mussa Juma said bancassurance is an important vehicle through which the government wants to increase insurance penetration in the market.

"We hope that partnerships like this between banks and insurance companies will help speed up rolling out of insurance coverage in the country," Dr Juma

noted stating that Tanzania remains one of the countries with the lowest insurance penetration in East Africa with less than one percent of the population covered. He commended NMB and the four insurance companies for forging the partnership which is an important vehicle to deliver bancassurance services countrywide.

Safaricom to consider Huawei as supplier for 5G network

NAIROBI

Kenya's biggest telecoms operator Safaricom will consider awarding a contract to China's Huawei as it rolls out its fifth generation (5G) network this year, its acting chief executive said Wednesday.

The United States government has been urging its European allies and others not to use Huawei, one of Safaricom's network vendors along with Nokia, citing security concerns. "We will use Huawei in 5G ... What will we do in terms of the American statements about not using Huawei? We don't have that situation in Africa," Acting CEO Michael Joseph said.

Involving Huawei in Safaricom's 5G network could hamper talks on a free trade agreement between the United States and Kenya, which were announced this month, analysts said. "They would have to figure a way of working it out just the same way that the UK is trying to figure it out," said Eric Musau of Standard Investment Bank in Nairobi, after Britain said Huawei could have only a limited role in its 5G network.

Mr Joseph said Safaricom would follow guidelines from its two main shareholders, South Africa's Vodacom and Britain's Vodafone. "There is demand for more and more bandwidth, more and more speed," he said, adding that 5G services network would first be offered to customers in major cities where demand was highest.

Safaricom, Kenya's largest telecoms company, saw web data revenue grow fourfold over the five years to Sh38 billion, surpassing sales growth from voice business. The 5G service is a central part of its attempts to further expand its data business to counter slower growth in voice calls revenue.

But Safaricom subscribers who want to use the service will need to acquire new handsets that are compatible with 5G before they can enjoy the superfast Internet, which offers much faster data download and upload speeds that ultimately ease network congestion.

Safaricom's net profit for the six months through September jumped 14.4 percent to Sh35.65 billion on strong M-Pesa and mobile data revenue growth that offset a decline in voice and messaging (SMS) revenues.

Separately, Safaricom said it planned to expand into Ethiopia, which has promised to open up the state-run telecoms industry. Two operating licences are expected to be offered. Joseph said Safaricom was putting together a consortium for its bid. The group would include Vodacom, Vodafone, financial capital investors and other unnamed operators, he added. Joseph, who has been interim CEO since July, will hand over to full-time appointment Peter Ndegwa on April 1.



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Gold just hit a seven-year high on virus fears

SINGAPORE

Gold traded near a seven-year high on concern that the coronavirus outbreak will retard global growth, coupled with speculation the Federal Reserve will ease monetary policy before the year-end. Palladium held near a record after building on a powerful rally.

Bullion is rising at a time US stocks are at an all-time high even as traders weigh the disease's impact. While Hubei, the center of the outbreak, reported fewer cases after another revision, there are signs of deepening economic damage. In addition, two deaths were reported in Iran and two people from a quarantined ship in Japan died, highlighting the threat outside China.

The traditional haven has climbed more than 6% this year amid mounting concern over the effects of the virus, with companies from Apple to Burberry Group cutting guidance. While minutes from the latest Fed meeting showed that officials indicated they could leave rates unchanged for many months, futures traders maintained expectations for at least one cut over 2020.

"Support for the yellow metal is driven by economic uncertainty related to the coronavirus - i.e. how long could the pandemic last and what will its ultimate impact be on world economic growth?" Gavin Wendt, senior resource analyst at MineLife in Sydney, said in an email.

"Importantly, we've seen gold performing strongly in a range of currencies, hitting new all-time highs during 2019 and 2020," said Wendt. That reflects not only investor uncertainty, but also a likelihood more stimulus will be required, including lower rates, to boost activity in a post-coronavirus world, he said.

Spot gold was steady at \$1 610.43 an ounce at 11:27 a.m. in Singapore, near Wednesday's peak of \$1 612.98, which was the highest since March 2013. Holdings in global exchange-traded funds backed by bullion have risen to a record, and are on course for a sixth weekly expansion.

Prices may top \$1,650 over the coming weeks, according to UBS Group AG's Global Wealth Management unit, which says it remains long on the precious metal. "With US equity valuations elevated, any further upsets could see another bout of volatility, a further rally in government bonds and a higher gold price," analysts Wayne Gordon and Giovanni Staunovo wrote in a report dated February 19.



Solar panels and a model solar farm in Cape Town.

Patrice Motsepe firm commits R249m to solar projects

JOHANNESBURG

Patrice Motsepe-owned African Rainbow Capital and its investment advisory firm operating outside SA, ARCH Emerging Market Partners, has committed R249 million to develop and finance new commercial and industrial solar assets across Africa.

ARCH, through its Africa Renewable Power Fund (ARCH ARPF), yesterday announced its commitment to fund CrossBoundary Energy (CBE) with the money in equity funding that will provide businesses across Africa with access to cheaper, cleaner power.

CBE operates in Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana and Nigeria, and has a pipeline of over 300MW of projects on the continent. In a statement, ARCH ARPF says its commitment represents

the first stage of a larger transaction under finalisation by CBE to scale solar for business across Africa.

The announcement comes as the International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts a strong acceleration in the global adoption of distributed solar photovoltaic (PV) solutions. The IEA report, Renewables 2019, forecasts that distributed solar PV will account for almost half of the near-term growth in the overall solar PV market, with global installed capacity expected to increase by over 250% by 2024.

The IEA also notes the rapid growth is being driven by a continuing decline in system costs, allowing solar to generate greater savings on corporate customers' electricity bills. William Barry, managing director of ARCH

ARPF, says: "The off-grid segment is an important component of our African renewable power mandate as businesses and retail consumers alike seek reliable, cost-effective solutions to their electricity needs.

"Now that companies recognise the attractive project economics of distributed solar PV, we are confident CBE's pipeline of projects will accelerate, and are delighted to be supporting their industry-leading management team as they expand their footprint across the continent."

Chief investment officer at CBE, Pieter Joubert, welcomed the deal, saying: "We're very excited to work with ARCH ARPF to continue providing Africa's leading businesses with cheaper, cleaner, more reliable power at no

upfront cost.

"This commitment by ARCH ARPF represents the first phase of a larger transaction, which will allow us to take the commercial and industrial sector to scale across Africa, and in doing so reduce energy costs for our customers, create additional jobs within the solar sector, and significantly reduce carbon emissions."

In SA, the solar energy market has experienced moderate growth since 2018, in terms of new photovoltaic installations. The South African government has signed renewable power purchase agreements, bringing some much-needed hope to the market and further propelling the industry forward.

NBC GIVES AWAY 10 YAMAHA 'BODABODAS,' TOYO RICKSHAW GRAND PRIZE COMING

By Property Watch Reporter

TEN lucky winners have walked away with new Yamaha motorcycles since October last year when National Bank of Commerce introduced a 'Malengo' account promotion.

A grand prize of a Toyo rickshaw is awaiting the luck one when the promotion climaxes next month, NBC's Marketing Manager, Alina Kimaryo said in Dar es Salaam this week. Kimaryo who was speaking during a January draw for the monthly winner, said other luck winners went on fully paid up trips to Serengeti National Park and Seychelles.

She said the promotion dubbed 'Ibuka kidede na malengo' has continued to attract hundreds of NBC clients because the bank has experienced an increase in deposits from existing and new customers who have opened 'Malengo' account.

"When we say 'Ibuka Kidede', we really mean it because up to now 10 people have won 'bodabodas' while eight won paid up travel trips to Serengeti and Seychelles," Kimaryo said who noted that the campaign



NBC officials pose with Yamaha motorcycle and a Toyo rickshaw that will be presented to the winner of the 'Malengo' account campaign during the climax next month. Photo courtesy of NBC.

is aimed at awarding customers and other consumers in general due to their support.

"NBC is a bank with truly local bearing hence our services and products are conversant with the needs of Tanzanians hence 'Malengo' account is such products created by the bank," she added while stressing that the campaign was designed to enable consumers realize their dreams of owning brand properties.

"We at NBC want our customers and Tanzanians to nurture the culture of saving even if it means saving in very small amounts as a Kiswahili saying goes, 'Haba na haba hujaza kibaba' which literally means 'little-by-little that makes a litre,'" the NBC Marketing Manager pointed out.

During the draw, five winners of motorbikes took home new Yamaha motorcycle while the Toyo make rickshaw is the next big thing to go for.

Present at the event was motorbike winner for December last year, Rosemary Kibodya was presented with her award while she smiles for cameras, saying the 'bodaboda' is a new year's gift from God.

Ethiopia plans to build Africa's largest airport

ADDIS ABABA

Bureaucracy remains a stumbling block for businesses as Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed strives to roll back decades of tight controls and maintain one of the fastest rates of economic growth in Africa.

The country's World Bank Ease of Doing Business ranking has been above 159 of 190 countries for the past five years, and the government wants to improve that to below 100 in 2021, according to the prime minister's office. The government has introduced an online system to register businesses, a new import-export platform to simplify trade document processing and the state is amending policies and will introduce a new investment law.

"Ethiopia has already identified what needs to be done," Charles Robertson, Renaissance Capital's global chief economist, said in an emailed response to questions. However, one of the major challenges for companies is access to credit and this won't suddenly "be miraculously better," he said.

Ethiopia is among Africa's fastest growing economies -- the World Bank estimates 6.3% in the 2020 fiscal year -- yet it remains one of the most state-controlled on the continent. Abiy, 43, is seeking to attract billions of dollars in foreign investment by selling state assets from the sugar industry, the phone system, railroads, and other infrastructure.

Decades of state bureaucracy in the Horn of Africa nation of more than 100 million people make it difficult to fully benefit from the reforms. "Regulatory changes don't mean ease of doing business," said Getachew Alemu, an independent economist. "The bureaucrats are the same."

While there have been improvements in key offices at the federal level, especially the Ethiopian Investment Commission, this isn't the case at the lower administrative levels, where manual filing is still the norm.

"Launching a business in Ethiopia still requires considerable levels of courage and resilience," said Addis Alemayehu, chief executive officer of Addis Ababa-based 251 Communications. The business reforms will trickle down and "contribute a fair share toward an investor confidence boost and slight decline in risk-aversion," he said.

Radisson Blu registers 18% growth in profit

KIGALI

Radisson Blu Kigali, which also runs the Kigali Convention Centre, has reported a year-on-year profit growth rate of 18 per cent from 2017 to 2019, which demonstrates a significant return on investment.

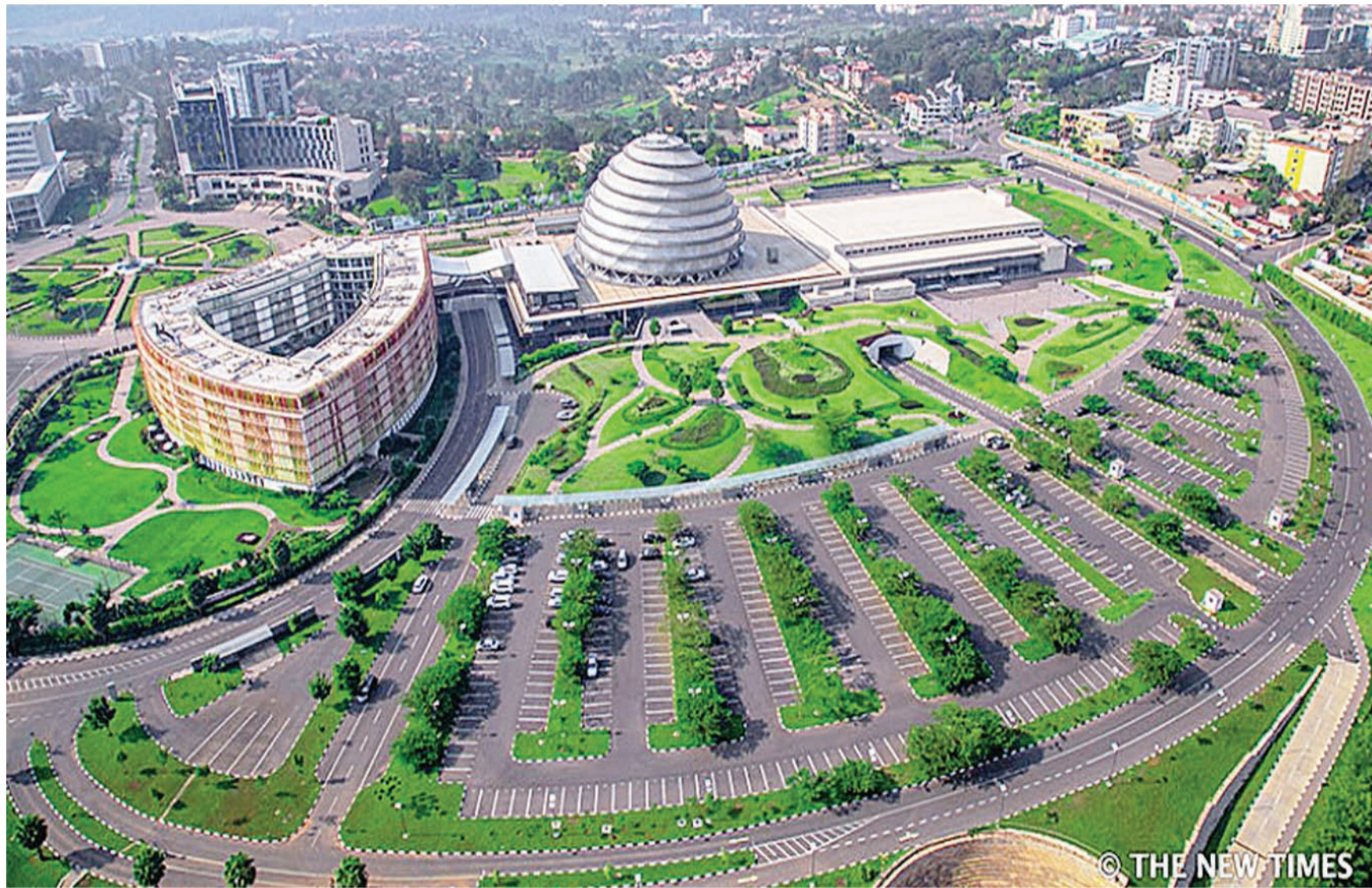
Denis Dernault, the company's General Manager, said that the growth has boosted its marketing operations as well as the ability to run the business sustainably, and effectively raised confidence about future business prospects.

"That's a healthy trend where the stakeholder doesn't have to put money into the complex any more. We are now providing a return on investment," he said. Even with additional hospitality establishments and meeting venues entering the local market over the last three years, Kigali Convention Centre has maintained dominance hosting over 1,100 events and conferences since July 2016.

In 2019, the growth was among other things driven by over 300 events held at the convention centre among them meetings, conferences and exhibitions. The growth in revenue, the management said, is among other things a result of efforts by the Radisson Hotel Group, global sales team that has led to constant and persistent marketing.

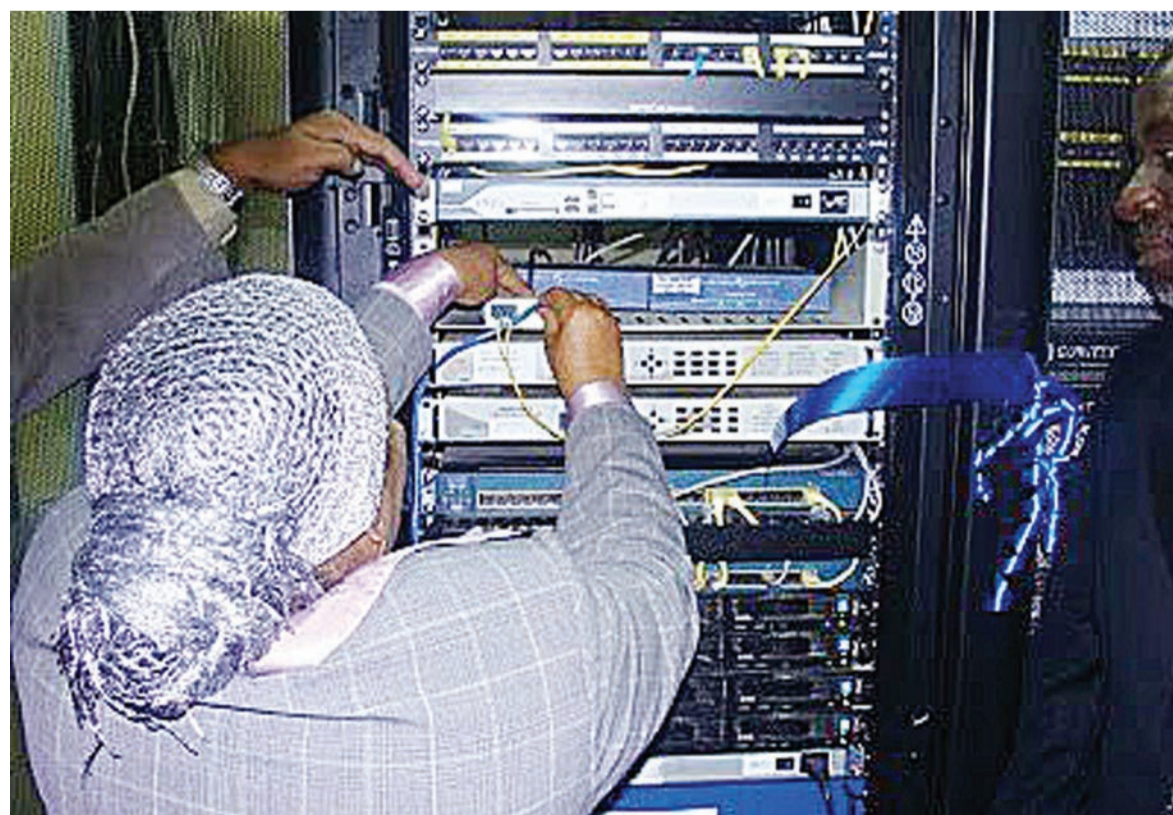
The sales team pitches to event organisers and bookers in key feeder markets on behalf of the hotel and Convention Centre. "Sales and marketing efforts such as attending international trade shows and exhibitions with a good conversion rate. Maintaining the hotel and convention centres reputation and introducing the venue and destination to new clients through commissioned case-studies, adverts and advertorials on key MICE focused international publications," Dernault said.

The firm has also established synergy with the Rwanda Convention Bureau providing professional advice related to operations and functional details of the events planned to be hosted at KCC further boosting outcomes of events.



An aerial view of Radisson Blu Kigali and Kigali Convention Centre.

SimbaNET's CEO vows to invest in better infrastructure to improve service delivery



A SimbaNET engineer at work in Dar es Salaam.

By Property Watch Reporter

IN a bid to maintain its dominant share in the domestic market, SimbaNET's new Managing Director, Kenneth Ojung'a has vowed to continue investing in modern infrastructure technology.

Ojung'a who was appointed SimbaNET's CEO in December last year, said the company has posted great performance annually. "This indicates that the market has a strong growth potential and therefore in need of increased services and products to meet growing demand. For this reason, Simbanet continues to invest in its infrastructure in Tanzania to position itself to better serve its customers evolving business needs," he added. Ojung'a which is one

of the leading internet service providers in the country will continue to provide high quality and customer centric services to the market to ensure that customers are at the cutting edge of technology solutions whilst keeping a keen eye on their need to manage costs.

He further noted that the market should also expect more in innovation and improvement of services because of his vast potential in the telecom media and technology industries that span across Africa.

Among other feats, Ojung'a worked with regional telco giant, Safaricom, pan-African brands like Econet Media and global brands like Vodafone hence expected to use such knowledge and experience to improve service quality

and deliver above competitors in terms of the overall customer experience.

"Simbanet is a unique provider of integrated telecommunication services with a long heritage of quality products and service delivery to customers in the Tanzanian market and needs to sustain such a leading role," he added.

Simbanet operates across all the countries in East Africa, and extends to Malawi and Zambia, providing voice and connectivity products to its esteemed corporate clients. SimbaNET provides connectivity, architecture, security, cloud and managed services to help enterprises optimize their information and communications technology (ICT) environments. SimbaNET is a member of Wananchi Group.

CONSTRUCTION

RAK PROPERTIES TARGETS DH300M IN 2020 REVENUE AS IT PLANS NEW PROJECTS

ABU DHABI

RAK Properties, the Abu Dhabi-listed developer, expects to reap Dh300 million in 2020 revenue and plans to start new projects in Ras Al Khaimah and Abu Dhabi to boost growth, a top executive of the firm said.

"We have two towers, which are nearing completion," Mohamed Sultan Al Qadi, managing director of RAK Properties told The National in an interview. "One in Ras Al Khaimah, which will be handed over in March and in Abu Dhabi in June. With these projects, we expect our revenue to almost double. We also have villas and other units to be sold."

The developer behind the Dh10 billion master development, Mina Al Arab in Ras Al Khaimah, earlier this month said 2019 revenue climbed 90 per cent to Dh192m. However, its annual net profit slipped 33 per cent to Dh101m as land and property valuations fell.

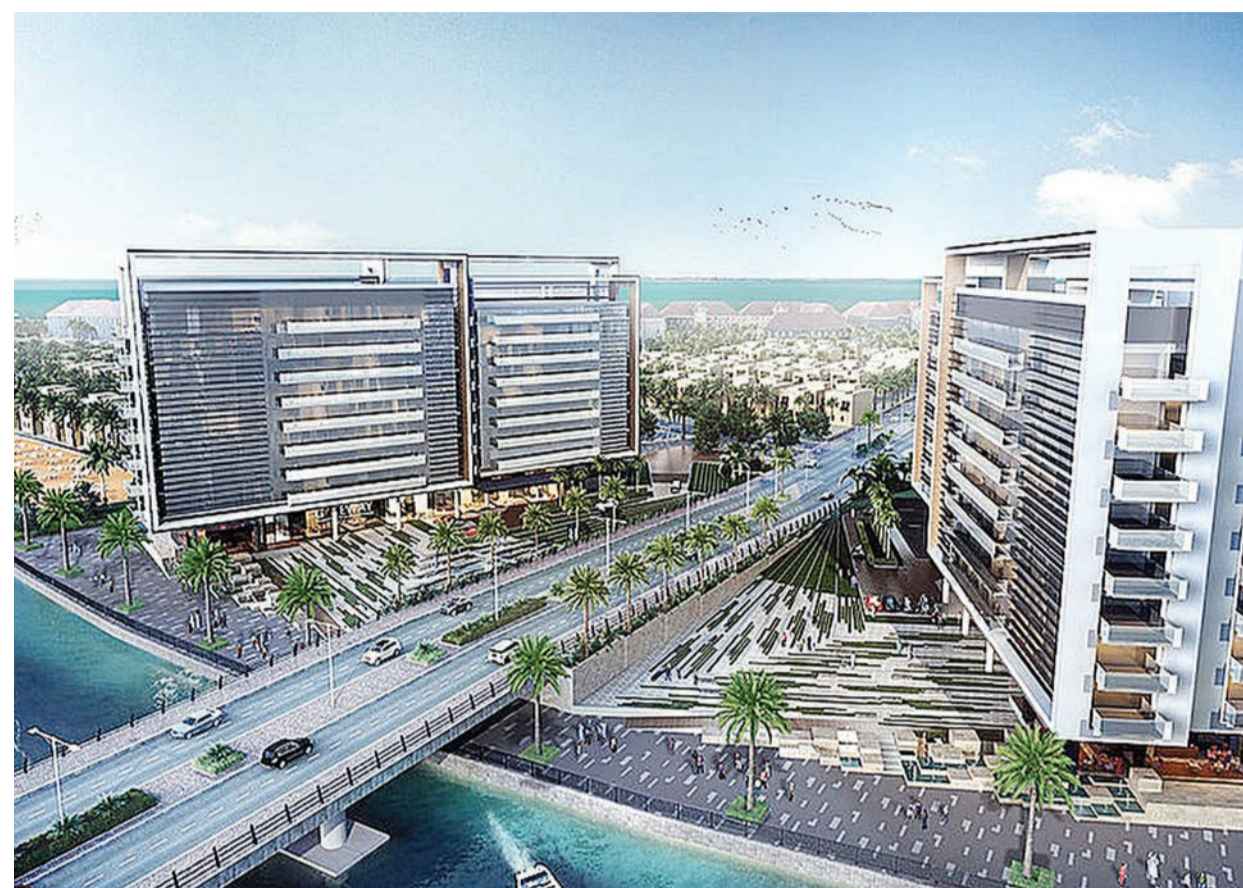
The two properties it plans to hand over this year are Gateway Residence in Ras Al Khaimah and Julphar Residence on Reem Island in Abu Dhabi, Mr Al Qadi said. The company aims to start the construction of two new buildings in Ras Al Khaimah this year with a total investment of about Dh200m. The company is currently in the process of tendering the project, he said.

In Abu Dhabi, the developer plans to launch a new development in the fourth quarter of this year at Mohammed bin Zayed City with an investment of Dh150m. It is also looking to construct more villas in Ras Al Khaimah as it expands its portfolio in the emirate. "There is still demand for property in Ras Al Khaimah," he said. "We don't have that much of supply available [in the emirate], and the situation is much easier [there]."

The UAE property market slowed in the wake of a drop in oil prices that began in 2014 and due to an oversupply in the market. Analysts, however, forecast a recovery on the back of new government measures such as a long-term visa for investors, the Dh50 billion Ghadan 21 initiative, Expo 2020 and changes to the freehold property law in Abu Dhabi with the market rebounding in 2021.

"We came into this sort of crisis several times," he said. "I am optimistic there will be demand [on the back of government measures]. Expo 2020 will also have a positive impact," he added. RAK Properties is also pushing to complete hospitality projects - the Intercontinental Hotel and Resort and the Anantara Mina Al Arab Hotel and Resort. The two projects are expected to start operations next year and will add to the company portfolio that generates recurring revenue.

RAK Properties, he said, is registering demand for its properties from a wide pool of investors, especially from the UAE nationals and buyers from several Asian markets. "We always have our own way of marketing and branding our product. We have something in the affordable housing, as well in the middle class and high-end classes," he said. "All three options are available to investors."



Gateway Residence in Ras Al Khaimah.

Arabtec reports full-year loss as revenue declines amid softer market conditions

DUBAI

Dubai-listed Arabtec Holding said it swung to its first full-year loss since 2016 due to a decline in revenue amid a slowdown in the real estate sector.

Net loss attributable to the owners of the company for the period ending December 31 reached Dh774 million, compared to a profit of Dh256m during the same period in 2018, the company said in a filing to the Dubai Financial Market, where its shares trade. Revenue for the period plunged 21 per cent to Dh7.78 billion.

The company attributed the loss mainly to weaker income from its construction business as liquidity for projects remained tight. A slowdown in the real estate sector that resulted in the awarding of a limited number of contracts, settlements and recovery of claims and losses from an investment in an associate company also dented profitability.

Arabtec's industrial, infrastructure and mechanical, electrical and plumbing business lines, however, remained profitable last year, it added.

"The [Arabtec] group continues to right-size its workforce, reducing manpower and support functions in line with the operational requirements of the business, reducing cost and improving productivity and efficiency for the group," it said on Sunday.

"The group continued to reduce debt in 2019 and is working closely with key lenders to align its debt with its business needs." In a separate statement, the company said that its group chief financial officer Adel Al Wahedi has also resigned, with-



An Arabtec construction site in Dubai.

out giving a reason for his departure.

Arabtec said it handed over six legacy projects since the third quarter and plans to hand over nine more by the end of 2020. "This will significantly reduce the group's risk around costs and will allow Arabtec to fully focus on pursuing its contractual entitlements with clients," it said. The contractor is also taking a selective approach to geography, clients and contract terms and said it will focus on its core strengths such as construction of villas to boost growth.

The Dubai-listed firm is also focusing on infrastructure development through its subsidiary Arabtec Engineering Services. It looks to take advantage of future growth opportunities in the oil and gas sector, is well positioned to grow its revenue and backlog through a strong pipeline of opportunities in the UAE and Saudi Arabia, it said.

The Dubai-listed firm is also focusing on infrastructure development through its subsidiary Arabtec Engineering Services. It looks to take advantage of future growth opportunities in the

UAE including roads, bridges, sewerage, water and irrigation works projects. The company last year said it planned to merge with Abu Dhabi-based Trojan holding. "Discussions and due diligence are ongoing" for its potential deal, it noted on Sunday.

Last year, Arabtec won new contracts, including a Dh366m contract from Emaar Misr to build a residential project in Egypt. Target Engineering also won a Dh280m contract for the expansion and upgrade of a water disposal facility in Saudi Arabia. Construction companies in the region have faced headwinds as the property market slowed after a three-year oil price drop that began in 2014.

has since fallen by 8 per cent, according to the study by Hamptons International. It found the average landlord in Britain owned 1.93 buy-to-let properties, the highest level since 2009. Last year, 30 per cent of landlords owned more than one buy-to-let property, the highest proportion on record. The figures suggested the small-time

property entrepreneur was dropping out of the system. Aneisha Beveridge, head of research at Hamptons, said: "The number of landlords in the private rented sector has fallen to the lowest level in seven years. "Those who have stayed tend to have bigger portfolios - a further sign that the sector is professionalising."

being able to afford a small London city-centre flat, according to a UBS survey in 2019. Of the major cities around the world, only Paris and Hong Kong would require longer service, while workers in Dubai would need only six years to reach that point, the study found. The number of landlords in Britain peaked at 2.88 million in 2017 but

has since fallen by 8 per cent, according to the study by Hamptons International. It found the average landlord in Britain owned 1.93 buy-to-let properties, the highest level since 2009. Last year, 30 per cent of landlords owned more than one buy-to-let property, the highest proportion on record. The figures suggested the small-time

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India looks to stop thermal coal import by 2023-24

NEW DELHI

Union Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi has announced that the government looks to stop the substitutable import of thermal coal from 2023-24.

The government wants to bridge the substitutable shortfall by 2023-24, he told PTI on the sidelines of a two-day brainstorming session organised at Kevadia in neighbouring Bharuch district, about 90 km from Vadodara.

The government recently introduced an ordinance to amend regulations to open up coal mining to other firms outside of the steel and power sectors, Joshi stated. "Whatever the substitutable shortfall is there, we want to achieve it by 2023-2024. We want to stop the substitutable import of the coal."

The government may conduct an auction of 100 fully explored blocks, Joshi said. The latest move in the coal sector is expected to create an efficient energy market, thereby bringing more competition, while reducing coal imports.

The brainstorming session that started on Monday was organised to discuss out of the box solutions to overcome various bottle necks in increasing coal production and provide innovative solutions to the coal sector, Joshi said.

Highlighting key takeaways of the session, Joshi said various ways and means were discussed with key stakeholders to achieve 1 billion tonnes coal production target by Coal India by 2023-24. The ministry of coal will coordinate with Indian Railways and shipping ministry to enable Coal India to evacuate more coal by 2030.

Stressing upon the diversification in the coal sector, Joshi said that idea has also been mooted at the session that CIL could think of coming up with the art of pithead thermal power plants to transform it into an integrated company.

He said it was also proposed that CIL could generate 5GW of solar power by 2023-24 and could diversify into coal gasification with a target of 5 million tonnes by 2030 enabling a sustainable energy mix for the country. He also announced that the ministry of coal will introduce an award to recognize and appreciate best practices in coal production, productivity, sustainability etc by coal companies.



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Private landlords in Britain fall to seven-year low

LONDON

The number of private landlords in Britain has fallen to a seven-year low after tax changes that have led to investors selling. Property company Hamptons International estimated there were 2.66 million landlords in Britain, the lowest level since

2012.

The government of former prime minister David Cameron began tax and regulatory changes in 2016 that have drastically cut the profitability of owning more than one home in the UK and renting it out. His finance minister George Osborne said he wanted to stop the rise of the amateur landlord to allow

young families the opportunity to buy rather than rent. Changes have included a 3 per cent stamp duty surcharge on a second property and the scrapping of tax relief on investors' mortgage interest payments. The UK has some of the world's least affordable properties with an average skilled service worker needing to work for 16 years before

being able to afford a small London city-centre flat, according to a UBS survey in 2019. Of the major cities around the world, only Paris and Hong Kong would require longer service, while workers in Dubai would need only six years to reach that point, the study found. The number of landlords in Britain peaked at 2.88 million in 2017 but

has since fallen by 8 per cent, according to the study by Hamptons International. It found the average landlord in Britain owned 1.93 buy-to-let properties, the highest level since 2009. Last year, 30 per cent of landlords owned more than one buy-to-let property, the highest proportion on record. The figures suggested the small-time

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Trump offered to pardon Assange if he denied Russia helped leak Democrats' emails, says lawyer

LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump offered to pardon WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange if he said that Russia had nothing to do with WikiLeaks' publication of Democratic Party emails in 2016, a London court heard on Wednesday.

Assange appeared by videolink from prison as lawyers discussed the management of his hearing next week to decide whether he should be extradited to the United States.

At Westminster Magistrates' Court, Assange's barrister, Edward Fitzgerald, referred to a witness statement by former Republican U.S. Representative Dana Rohrabacher who visited Assange in 2017, saying he had been sent

by the president to offer a pardon.

The pardon would come on the condition that Assange say the Russians were not involved in the email leak that damaged Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2016 against Trump, Rohrabacher's statement said.

A White House spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham, denied the assertion.

"The president barely knows Dana Rohrabacher other than he's an ex-congressman. He's never spoken to him on this subject or almost any subject. It is a complete fabrication and a total lie," she said.

Rohrabacher, likewise, said he never spoke with the president about Assange. In a statement, the former lawmaker denied he had been sent

on Trump's behalf and said he was acting on his own when he offered to ask Trump for a pardon if Assange would say how he got the emails.

He said he relayed Assange's willingness to cooperate to Trump's then-chief of staff, John Kelly, but said he heard nothing further from the White House. U.S. intelligence agencies concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 election to try to help Trump win, in part by hacking and releasing emails embarrassing to Clinton.

Russia denied meddling and Trump denied any campaign collusion with Moscow. A probe by U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller did not establish that members of Trump's campaign conspired with Russia during the election.

Assange, 48, who spent seven years holed up in Ecuador's London embassy before he was dragged out last April, is wanted in the United States on 18 counts including conspiring to hack government computers and violating an espionage law. He could spend decades behind bars

if convicted.

Almost a decade after his WikiLeaks website enraged Washington by leaking secret U.S. documents, Woolwich Crown Court in London will begin hearings on Monday - with Assange present - to decide whether he should be sent to the United States.

At Wednesday's hearing, Assange spoke only to confirm his name and date of birth. He appeared relaxed and spent much of the hearing reading notes in his lap. He wore two pairs of glasses: one on top of his head and another he took on and off and twiddled in his hands.

The Australian-born Assange made global headlines in early 2010 when WikiLeaks published a classified U.S. military video showing a 2007 attack by Apache helicopters in Baghdad that killed a dozen people, including two Reuters news staff. The full extradition hearing will be split in two parts, with the second half delayed until May.

Agencies



Julian Assange

THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19

President Xi urges protection, care for medical workers in epidemic fight

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has called for great attention to the protection and care for medical workers to make sure they are healthy and stay focused on winning the battle against the outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).



Xi (pictured), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a recent instruction on protecting the medicals participating in the COVID-19 prevention and control.

The following are highlights of Xi's instruction:

-- Medical workers are the backbone force in defeating the epidemic, and it must be ensured that they get full support.

-- More efforts are needed to relieve the stress on medical workers, and provide them with adequate daily necessities, ensure they have necessary rest, and get encouragement.

-- It must be ensured that medical teams in Hubei and Wuhan can carry out their work in a safe, orderly, coordinated, effective and swift manner.

XI'S PARTICULAR CONCERN

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, medical workers have worked day and night on the frontline. Some were infected or even sacrificed their lives while saving lives.

President Xi is particularly concerned about their well-being.

-- On Jan. 25, the first day of the lunar New Year, he expressed sincere gratitude to the medical workers at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on the epidemic prevention and control work.

-- On Feb. 5, he called for a severe crackdown on violence against medical workers, at a meeting of the Commission for Overall Law-based Governance of the CPC Central Committee.

-- On Feb. 10, he extended regards to medical personnel during his inspection of the epidemic prevention and control work in Beijing, making arrangements to address their difficulties and problems. He talked to doctors in Wuhan via a video-link and spoke at length about the protection and care for medical workers during the inspection.

-- On Feb. 14, at a meeting of the central committee for deepening overall reform, he again called for strengthening the building of public health teams and improving the mechanisms for the training, employment, benefits, performance evaluation and incentives for medical practitioners.

Since the outbreak, more than 30,000 medical workers, including military medics, have been sent from across the country to Hubei and Wuhan to fight the epidemic around the clock.

Xinhua

Putin says Medvedev had been aware of reshuffle plans

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has unveiled details of the January government reshuffle, the TASS news agency reported yesterday.

Putin had discussed the resignation of the government with then Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in advance, he was quoted as saying in a multiple-episode report entitled "20 Questions with Vladimir Putin."

Putin spoke of his open and sound relations with Medvedev for many years, ruling out the speculation that the cabinet resignation was a "special operation."

As to whether the reshuffle has created an impression of hastiness, Putin said that each step had been discussed and thought through in advance and a gap in power would plunge the country into a mess.

He added that the new position of Medvedev as deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council is not equal to vice president of the nation, although Putin himself serves as chairman of the Security Council.

Putin said that he listened to the views of new Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin when forming the cabinet, and that qualification is the main criterion for selecting candidates for ministerial posts.

Some officials from the president's office have entered the new cabinet because it is logical to leave the implementation of national projects at the government level to those who have prepared for it in the Kremlin, Putin said.

People's Daily

WHO-UNICEF-Lancet report: Children's future under threat

By Karl Wilson in Sydney

THE health and future of every child and adolescent in the world today is under immediate threat from ecological degradation, climate change and exploitative marketing practices that push fast food, sugary drinks, alcohol and tobacco at children.

The findings are contained in a report entitled "A Future for the World's Children?" by a commission of experts set up jointly by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and The Lancet, a leading medical journal. The report was financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The report includes a new global index of 180 countries comparing performance on child survival and well-being, based on health, education, nutrition and sustainability, as well as greenhouse gas emissions, and equity or income gaps.

China is ranked 43 out of 180 for its performance on child survival, just behind the United States on 39. Norway was ranked number one.

The report, released globally on Wednesday, found no single country is adequately protecting children's health, their environment and their futures.

"Despite improvements in child and adolescent health over the past 20 years, progress has stalled, and is set to reverse," said former prime minister of New Zealand and co-chair of the commission,



Children walk through the remaining flood waters in Yusuf Batir refugee camp in Maban, South Sudan on Nov 25, 2019. (File photo)

Helen Clark.

"It has been estimated that around 250 million children under five years old in low- and middle-income countries are at risk of not reaching their developmental potential, based on proxy measures of stunting and poverty. But of even greater concern, every child worldwide now faces existential threats from climate change and commercial pressures.

"Countries need to overhaul their approach to child and adolescent health, to ensure that we not only look after our children today but protect the world they will inherit in the future," she said in a statement released on Wednesday. According to the report, while

the poorest countries need to do more to support their children's ability to live healthy lives, excessive carbon emissions - disproportionately from wealthier countries - threaten the future of all children.

If global warming exceeds 4°C by the year 2100 in line with current projections, this would lead to devastating health consequences for children, due to rising ocean levels, heatwaves, proliferation of diseases like malaria and dengue, and malnutrition.

The report also highlights the distinct threat posed to children from harmful marketing. Evidence suggests that children in some countries see as many as 30,000 advertisements on television alone

in a single year, while youth exposure to vaping (e-cigarettes) advertisements increased by more than 250 percent in the United States over two years, reaching more than 24 million young people.

Professor Anthony Costello, one of the report's authors, said: "Industry self-regulation has failed".

He said studies in Australia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand and the US - among many others - have shown that self-regulation has not hampered commercial ability to advertise to children.

"For example, despite industry signing up to self-regulation in Australia, children and adolescent viewers were still exposed to 51 million alcohol ads during just one

year of televised football, cricket and rugby.

And the reality could be much worse still: we have few facts and figures about the huge expansion of social media advertising and algorithms aimed at our children," he said in a statement also released on Wednesday.

Children's exposure to commercial marketing of junk food and sugary beverages is associated with purchase of unhealthy foods and overweight and obesity, linking predatory marketing to the alarming rise in childhood obesity.

The number of obese children and adolescents increased from 11 million in 1975 to 124 million in 2016 - an 11-fold increase, with dire individual and societal costs.

The commission's authors called for a new global movement centered on children with new policies and investments to improve child health and rights, and to incorporate their voices into policy decisions.

They recommended that nations terminate carbon dioxide emissions immediately to safeguard the future of the young.

Richard Horton, editor-in-chief of The Lancet said: "From heads-of-state to local government, from UN leaders to children themselves, this Commission calls for the birth of a new era for child and adolescent health. It will take courage and commitment to deliver. It is the supreme test of our generation."

Agencies

China to make further efforts to win battle against epidemic

THE battle against the novel coronavirus is a race against time and death, and a victory must be achieved for the people.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on Feb. 10 inspected the novel coronavirus pneumonia prevention and control work in Beijing, capital of China.

He talked to medical staff on the front line in epicenter Hubei via a video link, sending the caring of the CPC Central Committee to the medical personnel, Party cadres and all the people struggling on the front line.

Xi fully recognized the huge efforts and contribution made by each front to prevent and control the epidemic since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. He said that the situation at the moment

remains very serious, stressing that the decisions and deployment made by the CPC Central Committee to prevent and control the epidemic must be strictly implemented, and the nation shall further strengthen confidence, stand together in times of difficulty, and adopt scientific prevention and control measures as well as targeted approaches.

He called for greater efforts and bravery, as well as firmer confidence, stronger perseverance and more decisive measures. Xi noted that the country must rely on the people, and resolutely contain the spreading of the epidemic and win the battle against the epidemic.

Since the onset of the epidemic, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with comrade Xi Jinping at the core, the country has been fighting against the virus with bravery

and solidarity, carrying out national mobilization and across-the-board deployment to enhance epidemic prevention and control.

The Party members, officials and the people in Hubei, especially its capital Wuhan have actively responded to the call of the CPC Central Committee, taking strong measures with firm confidence and care for the overall interests of the country.

When difficulties arise in one place in the country, aid comes from everywhere, and that's what has been practiced by the rest of China. The medical staff from different parts of the country, medics of the People's Liberation Army, as well as all personnel sent to support Hubei and Wuhan have answered the call of the nation, and demonstrated the spirit of indomitability and hard work

with no fear for sacrifice.

Under the joint efforts of each front, the epidemic prevention and control work was carried out in a forceful manner, which has created a strong power of solidarity to fight against the virus.

Facing the serious situation, Party committees and governments at all levels should strictly follow the spirit of Xi's important speech, as well as the decisions and deployment made by the CPC Central Committee, and take epidemic prevention and control as a priority. Party and government chiefs at all levels should command on the front line and shoulder responsibility. Party members and cadres should also go to the front line, take responsibility, and concentrate on their work to ensure every detail is fully covered.

Besides, the medical personnel

should fight through any hardship, and serve as a mainstay in the battle against the virus. They must put people's lives and health in the first place, and do all they can to save the patients.

Community has an important role in epidemic prevention and control, so communities across the country should enhance prevention and control measures and make themselves into solid forts amid the epidemic, so as to establish a line of defense for all.

In addition, publicity and public opinion guidance shall also be strengthened to publicize the decisions and deployment of the CPC Central Committee, create an atmosphere of solidarity, showcase the firm confidence and unity of the people amid epidemic, and release strong positive energy to get through the current difficulty.

Wuhan's victory would lead to the victory of Hubei and the whole country. Hubei and Wuhan are the top priority for epidemic prevention and control, and a decisive factor for the battle against the epidemic. Therefore, greater efforts shall be made in hospital admission, treatment and social management to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Beijing is the capital of China, so it shoulders great responsibility in epidemic prevention and control and no relaxation is allowed. The capital must fully implement prevention and control measures, and prevent both inflow and outflow of the virus to cut the infection source as much as possible, so as to contain the epidemic and its radiance to the largest extent.

Bloomberg comes under scathing attack at first Democratic presidential debate in Nevada

LAS VEGAS

MICHAEL Bloomberg faced a barrage of attacks at his first Democratic presidential debate on Wednesday, as his rivals assailed the free-spending and fast-rising billionaire over his record on race, history of sexist comments and the use of his massive fortune to muscle his way into the contest.

In a rough debate debut that gave voters their first unscripted look at the media mogul and self-funding former New York mayor, Bloomberg seemed uncomfortable and hesitant as he defended his record and argued that he is Democrats' best chance of beating Republican President Donald Trump in November.

Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg all lined up to go after Bloomberg, who has surged in polls helped by an unprecedented advertising blitz. But they also heaped personal attacks on one another in the most contentious of the nine Democratic White House debates.

All of the contenders on the Las Vegas debate stage accused Bloomberg of trying to buy his way into the White House and said his record as mayor and businessman was not

good enough to beat Trump.

"We're running against a billionaire who calls women fat broads and horse-faced lesbians," said Warren, a senator from Massachusetts. "And, no, I'm not talking about Donald Trump, I'm talking about Mayor Bloomberg."

"Democrats take a huge risk if we just substitute one arrogant billionaire for another," she added.

Bloomberg has been accused over the years of many sexist and misogynistic comments, and several lawsuits have been filed alleging that women were discriminated against at his media company.

He did not respond to Warren's comments about his alleged remarks about women, taken from a booklet given to him in 1990 that was said to be a compilation of his sayings over the years. A campaign spokesman said Bloomberg "simply did not say the things somebody wrote in this gag gift."

Bloomberg, who entered the race in November and is skipping the first four early voting states in February to focus on later nominating contests in March, has risen to No. 2 among Democrats behind Sanders, according to a Reuters/Ipsos national poll released on Tuesday.

Bloomberg said at the debate that



he was using his money for an important cause.

"I'm spending that money to get rid of Donald Trump - the worst president we've ever had. And if I can get that done, it will be a great contribution to America and to my kids," he said.

Trump was happy to inject himself into the debate pile-on of Bloomberg,

telling supporters at a rally in Phoenix: "I hear he's getting pounded tonight."

SCORCHING EXCHANGES

The debate came at a pivotal time, three days before Nevada's presidential caucuses, the third contest in the state-by-state race to find a challenger to Trump in the Nov. 3 election.

The high stakes were evident in the intensity of the exchanges, with Biden and Warren, in particular, facing the do-or-die task of reigniting their campaigns after poor showings in Iowa and New Hampshire earlier this month.

Both Warren and Biden, the former vice president and onetime front-runner who lost ground to Sanders and Bloomberg in recent weeks, criticized Bloomberg for his treatment of women, and asked him to commit to releasing women who had signed nondisclosure agreements to settle lawsuits.

Bloomberg refused, saying they were made "consensually" with the expectation they would stay private.

"We are not going to beat Donald Trump with a man who has who knows how many nondisclosure agreements, and the drip, drip, drip of stories of women saying they have been harassed and discriminated against," said Warren, who had her most aggressive debate.

Bloomberg said there were "very few" nondisclosure agreements. "None of them accuse me of anything," he said. "Maybe they didn't like the jokes I told."

Agencies

Libya govt, Haftar's forces dim hopes of salvaging UN ceasefire talks

TRIPOLI/BENGAZI, Libya

LIBYA'S internationally recognised leader on Wednesday dashed hopes of quickly reviving UN ceasefire negotiations after his side withdrew, saying talk of them resuming had been overtaken by events as eastern forces continue to shell the capital.

The eastern-based Libyan National Army (LNA) of Khalifa Haftar, which shelled on Tuesday the port of the capital held by the recognised government, also ruled out a truce with "terrorists" and "Turkish invaders", suggesting a near year-long battle will continue.

The port is a major entry gate for wheat, fuel and food imports but also an arrival point for Turkish vessels sending arms, drones, trucks and soldiers to help Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj fend off the LNA, which is supported by the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan and Russian mercenaries.

The conflict has cut oil exports by 1 million barrels a day and could deepen a security vacuum that would be exploited by Islamist militants and human traffickers dispatching migrants by boat to Europe.

The Tripoli government left the ceasefire talks late on Tuesday and a defiant Serraj, visiting the shelled port on Wednesday, rebuffed calls to return immediately to the negotiation table.

"There must first be a strong signal from all international players who are trying to talk to us," he told reporters, saying this also applied to parallel discussions focused on political and economic issues.

He suggested fighting was likely to continue: "We have an even stronger signal than that, which is defending our people."

Xinhua

Kremlin hopes details on clash in Donbass will be clarified soon

MOSCOW

MOSCOW hopes to get a clearer picture of the recent clash in Donbass before making any conclusions, says Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

"We hope that we would be able to clarify the details shortly, before jumping to any conclusions," he said.

He admitted that the Kremlin indeed "saw the information that

in the early hours [of Tuesday] a clash occurred between Lugansk People's Republic Militia and Ukrainian Armed Forces."

"We do not have details of this clash, we do not know what provoked this clash, [but] we have read messages that both sides had casualties, and this is what we express our condolences for," the spokesman commented.

Peskov (pictured) vehemently denied that Moscow might be



responsible for what had happened. "No, this wording is totally wrong, one must not perceive it like this," he told journalists.

Earlier, the People's Militia of the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR) reported that the Ukrainian Armed Forces attempted to destabilize the situation on the contact line in Donbass.

According to the People's Militia, early on Tuesday, a subversive group of ten advanced

towards the positions near Golubovskoye, but got blown up at a minefield. Two servicemen reportedly died and three got injured.

Following the incident, "in a bid to evacuate the dead and the wounded, the command of the 93rd Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces ordered a massive artillery strike on LNR settlements," the Militia says.

Agencies

EU leaders to clash over money as Brexit blows hole in budget

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Union leaders will clash this week over the EU's 2021-2027 budget as Britain's exit leaves a 75 billion euro (US\$81 billion) hole in the bloc's finances just as it faces costly challenges such as becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

The budget is the most tangible expression of key areas on which the EU members must focus over the next seven years and their willingness to stump up.

For the coming seven-year cycle, the starting point for talks is 1.074 percent of the bloc's gross national income (GNI), or 1.09 trillion euros. By contrast, EU national budgets claw in 47 percent of annual output (GDP) on average.

Still, disputes over hundredths of percentage points have kept EU and government officials busy for the last two years and many diplomats remain skeptical that a deal will be reached on Thursday and Friday, when leaders meet in Brussels.

"Tomorrow's summit is a complex and complicated summit because the proposal we have received does not meet our expectations," said Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte. Italy is one of the net contributors to the common EU pot.

The EU budget gets money from customs duties on goods



entering its single market, a cut of sales tax, antitrust fines imposed by the EU on companies, and from national contributions.

It spends money on subsidies for EU farmers, on equalizing living standards across the bloc, border management, research, security and various non-EU aid programs.

Some net contributors - the "frugal four" of the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden and Denmark - want to limit the budget to 1.00 percent of GNI. Germany, the biggest contributor, is prepared to accept a bit more, but 1.07 is too high for Berlin.

COHESION FUNDS
The European Commission has proposed 1.1 percent and

the European Parliament, which will vote on the budget, wants 1.3 percent. For net beneficiaries such as Poland, larger is better.

For many central and eastern European countries, EU "cohesion funds" are crucial. "The costs related to Brexit and other challenges should be more equitably distributed," Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki wrote in the Financial Times, adding this was not the case due to proposed deep cuts for cohesion policies and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

But with less money coming in because of Brexit, some net contributors argue there is simply less to share around. Also, more money should be spent to mod-

ernize the EU economy rather than on preserving agriculture, they say.

EU leaders will discuss the idea of a tax on plastic waste that would go to EU coffers and sharing some profits from trading carbon emission permits.

The EU is also considering other taxes - on the digital economy, on flying, on financial transactions and on products made with high CO2 emissions imported into the EU.

Commission officials warn time is running out and the EU risks starting next year with no money to protect its borders, finance research and fund student exchanges, or equalize standards of living.

Group of 77 and UN support China's efforts in coronavirus battle



A patient, previously infected with the novel coronavirus, is discharged on Feb. 6 from the Second People's Hospital in Fuyang, east China's Anhui province. Four patients were discharged from the hospital on the same day, marking the second batch cured by the hospital.

THE Group of 77 and the United Nations expressed their full support to China's fight against the novel coronavirus last week during the 58th Session of the Commission on Social Development at UN headquarters in New York.

Guyana's UN Ambassador and Group of 77 Chair Rudolph Michael Ten-pow, said the Group expresses its full support to the comprehensive efforts made by the Chinese government to contain the novel coronavirus and recognizes the country's efforts in extending cooperation with the international community.

The Group emphasized the importance of the international community working together in the spirit of responsibility, transparency, solidarity, and cooperation, and avoid the spread of discrimi-

nation, stigma, and disinformation to control the outbreak.

The Group emphasized the role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in global public health preparedness and response, calling for respect toward the professional guidance offered by WHO.

H.E. Mr. Gbolíé Désiré Wulfran Ipo, Chair of the 58th Session of the Commission on Social Development (CSocD) and Ivory Coast ambassador to the UN, expressed their appreciation and support to the high-level political commitment and extraordinary efforts made by China in the fight against the coronavirus and called for international solidarity and cooperation to contain the outbreak.

UN Under-Secretary-General

of Economic and Social Affairs Liu Zhenmin said he joins the UN Secretary-General and heads of all entities in recognizing the resilience and efforts China is making to combat this global health challenge.

"We, in the UN system, are prepared to offer strong support to the people and government of China in their fight against the outbreak of the coronavirus. We are confident that they will succeed in curbing the novel coronavirus very soon," Liu said.

The Group of 77 is composed of 134 members. It is a mechanism used by developing countries seeking strength through unity in the UN and among other international organizations and has an influence on international affairs.

People's Daily

Experts say reverting to 10 states will revitalise South Sudan peace process

JUBA

THE recent decision by President Salva Kiir to cut the number of states from 32 to 10, demonstrates the much-needed political will to push the peace process forward, South Sudanese experts have said.

The peace process had stalled over the disagreement on the hitherto contentious issue of states and their boundaries. President Kiir last week took the region and international community by surprise, when he dissolved the former 32 states he decreed in 2015.

The main opposition group, Sudan People's Liberation

Movement-In Opposition (SPLM-IO) led by former First Vice President Riek Machar had disagreed on several occasions with the government over the number of states.

The SPLM-IO prior to the latest compromise was in favor of reverting to the previous 10 states which had been in existence before the outbreak of conflict in December 2013 while the government insisted on having the 32 states.

Machar's group, despite welcoming Kiir's gesture on the current 10 states, protested the creation of additional three administrative units which include

Abyei, Ruweng and Pibor areas. Jacob Chol, professor of politics at University of Juba, told Xinhua in Juba that the return to the 10 states is a popular demand of the people.

"The opinion poll that was conducted by the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) sampled about 2,000 South Sudanese and out of these, about 1,500 South Sudanese indicated that they want to return to the 10 states.

That option was brushed aside because some hardliners in the government had wanted just to use a national euphoric and sort of tribalized presentation

to show that people are for the 32 states," said Chol. He said the unprecedented move will help redeem President Kiir's image within the region and international community.

"It's a decision that has helped President Kiir to change or brush away the image as President of South Sudan who was not moving to compromise on certain important things in the peace process," he said.

"The president will be relieved from the international pressure, and will also change his own image from the global view on how they used to look at him to be a president who decides with-

out listening to other people," disclosed Chol.

He noted that Machar should be very happy with this latest development, after the former warring parties failed twice to form the transitional unity government on time, due to disagreements on the states and security arrangement.

"This gesture by President (Kiir) is going to build trust and confidence during the negotiations although there will be challenges on the security arrangement. But if they work together they can easily address those challenges," added Chol.

James Okuk, lecturer of politi-

cal science at the University of Juba, said the decision to revert to 10 states has set the political will which had been missing to move the peace process to its conclusion.

"It is the right choice, because that has now reset the political will that has been missing all along. So from here, things will move positively toward the formation of the transitional unity government.

They may not meet the deadline on Saturday, but they may meet it partially, meaning they could now pass the constitution and sign it into law within a few days," said Okuk. "Based on that

constitution, the president can now appoint himself, first vice president and the rest of the four vice presidents," he noted. He said the issue of the newly created administrative areas is just being used as a decoy for negotiation purposes but the main issue is the 10 states.

"The administrative areas have been attached only for negotiation purposes by these politicians because, in the end, they are benefiting. If they compromise it means they compromise with something in their interests, that's why it's not a big deal. The big deal is the 10 states," he said. Xinhua

Rapper Pop Smoke slain in Hollywood Hills shooting - Label



Pop Smoke

LOS ANGELES

POP Smoke, a rising Brooklyn rapper who had a breakout year of hit songs and albums that made some of the biggest names in hip-hop his fans and collaborators, was fatally shot during a break-in Wednesday at a Hollywood Hills home, his label said.

"We are devastated by the unexpected and tragic loss of Pop Smoke," said a statement from Republic Records, the label of the 20-year-old whose legal name was Bashar Barakah Jackson. "Our prayers and thoughts go out to his family, friends and fans, as we mourn this loss together."

Los Angeles police did not immediately confirm the identification and have not announced any arrests.

Police officers found a victim shortly before 5 a.m. after responding to a 911 call from someone who reported intruders, including one armed with a handgun, were breaking in, police Capt. Steve Lurie said.

Public listings show that the home is owned by Edwin Arroyave and his wife Teddi Mellencamp, daughter of Rock & Roll Hall-of-Famer John Mellencamp and a star of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills."

In an Instagram post, Teddi Mellencamp said "we were informed by a 3rd party leasing and management company overseeing a rental home we own in Los Angeles that a shooting had taken place at the property. Foremost, we would like to extend our prayers and condolences to the family and loved ones affected by this tragic loss of life."

Mellencamp said she and her husband were not aware of any further details beyond what they have learned through media reports.

Police said the 911 call came from "back East" and reported the break-in was occurring at a friend's home. The victim was pronounced dead at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Several people who were in the house were detained and released, Lurie said.

"We're just getting started in this investigation," he said.

Chance The Rapper said in a tweet: "Rest Up Pop Smoke, you were too young. God Bless and comfort your family."

From Brooklyn, New York, Pop Smoke came onto the rap scene in 2018 and broke out last spring with "Welcome to the Party" a gangsta

anthem where he brags about shootings, killings and drugs. It was a huge sensation that even drew the attention of Nicki Minaj, who dropped her own verse on a successful remix of the song.

Earlier this month he released the album "Meet the Woo 2," which debuted at No. 7 on the Billboard Top 200 albums chart. It was the follow up to his first official release, "Meet the Woo," last July. He also had the popular hit "Gatti" with Travis Scott and Jackboys and "Dior."

In an interview that ran on Rolling Stone's website last week, Pop Smoke said he used a freestyle lyrical method.

"I never wrote anything," he told Rolling Stone. "It's all up my head. Everything that I be writing, everything that I be saying, when it comes to these types of songs, just be so natural. Just how I be feeling. However, some songs I do write, and you'll know the ones that I write, 'cause you'll feel it."

Pop Smoke named fellow New York rapper 50 Cent as one of his influences and on Twitter, the multi-platinum entertainer memorialized him: "R.I.P to my man Pop Smoke, No sympathy for winners. God bless him."

Minaj also posted her sympathies with a photo of Pop Smoke on her Instagram account. "The Bible tells us that jealousy is as cruel as the grave. Unbelievable. Rest In Peace, Pop," she wrote.

And Jamie Foxx posted an Instagram picture of himself with the rapper, saying, "Wow just chopped it up with this young black man... just another senseless killing of us."

The death came about 11 months after rapper Nipsey Hussle was shot and killed in Los Angeles, and on a day when the man charged with killing him, Eric R. Holder, appeared in court for a hearing. Holder, who has pleaded not guilty, is expected to go to trial by April.

In July, up-and-coming Philadelphia rapper Bankroll Gambino, 21, was shot and killed during a music video shoot there. And in June 2018, 20-year-old rapper XXXTentacion was gunned down while leaving a Miami motorcycle shop.

TOKYO

A TEST event for the Tokyo Olympics scheduled for later this month that would have involved some non-Japanese athletes is being revamped because of fear of the spreading virus from China.

It's now limited to only Japanese athletes with the Olympics just over five months away.

The two-day test event opens at the new Ariake Arena on Feb. 28 and is relatively obscure – a Paralympic test for boccia, a precision ball sport similar to bocce and related to lawn bowling. It's the first of 19 remaining test events before the Olympics are to open on July 24.

They will be watched closely, as will the start of the torch relay on March 26 in Fukushima, a prefecture devastated nine years ago by an earthquake, tsunami and the meltdown of three nuclear reactors.

The test events may reveal what effect the spreading virus is having on Olympic preparations, and the ability of non-Japanese athletes to safely enter Japan.

They could also shine a spotlight on Chinese athletes and serve as a reminder that the next Olympics – the Winter Olympics – are in Beijing in 2022.

The deaths in Japan of three Japanese have been attributed to the fast-spreading virus. The viral outbreak has infected more than 75,000 people globally and has been attributed to over 2,000 deaths in China.

"Obviously, that (test event) is going to be modified, but the test event will go ahead," Tokyo spokesman Masa Takaya told The Associated Press.

The International Olympic Committee and local organizers have repeated the same message for weeks: there are no plans to cancel or postpone the Olympics. This has only happened during wartime. The Olympics in 1980 and 1984



People wear masks as they commute during the morning rush hour Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, in Chuo district in Tokyo. A test event for the Tokyo Olympics scheduled for later this month that would have involved some non-Japanese athletes is being rejiggered because of fear of the spreading virus from China. It will now involve only Japanese athletes. (AP Photo)

were held despite boycotts.

In a statement by Tokyo 2020, it quoted the Japan Para Sports Association saying "the JPSA has concluded that further time is necessary to fully analyze the potential impacts" that the virus might have on athletes.

Takaya said the next tests that are scheduled to have an international field include a wheelchair rugby test on March 12-15, and gymnastics test events on April 4-6. The gymnastics events are partly organized by FIG, the world governing body of gymnastics, the Japan Gymnastics Association, and local organizers.

Takaya said there were no plans to postpone or cancel any test events.

"No, no, no, no, never," he said.

However, he could not guarantee that non-Japanese

athletes would take part in the wheelchair and gymnastics events. It's possible they might go ahead, as boccia has, with only non-Japanese.

"We still don't which athletes are competing," Takaya said. "When it's the most appropriate time, we will release the participants information."

His response was the same about all other test events. The last is scheduled to end May 6.

Olympic qualifiers and dozens of sports events across Asia have been postponed or called off, including the indoor world track and field championships in Nanjing, China, and the Formula One race in April in Shanghai. Japan's Kyodo news agency reported Wednesday that Mongolia's archery team pulled out of a training camp in central Japan.

The cancellation of Olympic

qualifying events wrecks havoc with athletes waiting to advance, organizers and federations forced to find new venues – not to mention disrupting hotel reservations, airplane flights, and ticket reservations.

At risk are also TV broadcasters and sponsors who have invested billions of dollars in the Olympics. Almost three-quarters of the IOC income of \$5.7 billion over a four-year Olympic cycle is from broadcasting rights.

A Japanese virologist, speaking Wednesday, said if the Olympics were tomorrow – they could not be held.

"I think it may be difficult to have the Olympics (now)," Dr. Hitoshi Oshitani, a virologist from Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine, said. "But by the end of July we may be in a different situation."

AP



Dar es Salaam resident, Yassin Ridhiwani Ally (wearing white cap) that emerged as last week's SportPesa Jackpot winner, pictured with Yanga players at the players' camp in the city on Wednesday. Ally, the club's supporter, was presented with over 437m/- by SportPesa once he emerged as the Jackpot's winner. The company as well sponsors Yanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA

Rory McIlroy delivers strong rejection to proposed new tour

MEXICO CITY

RORY McIlroy became the first top player to publicly reject the idea of a proposed new tour, saying he values his choice of where to play over whatever money the Premier Golf League is promising.

"I would like to be on the right side of history on this one," McIlroy said Wednesday at the Mexico Championship.

McIlroy said the only thing that could change his mind were if all the top players decided to join, and he doesn't see that happening.

"I think it's very split at the moment," he said.

Talk of a Premier Golf League has been around for about six years and picked up momentum – along with serious fund-

ing, primarily from Saudi Arabia – in recent months. Organizers have been talking to players and agents the last few months in the Bahamas, Australia and last week in Los Angeles.

Phil Mickelson, who played with officials involved during the pro-am in the Saudi International last month, said Sunday he was not ready to announce his intentions but might be ready to state his view publicly by The Players Championship.

Tiger Woods has said only that he and his people were looking into it.

The idea of the Premier Golf League is to invigorate golf by putting together 12 four-man teams that would be required to play 18 events – 10 of them in the U.S. – that feature 54 holes,

no cut and a shotgun start to fit a five-hour broadcast window. Total prize money would be \$240 million, and the top player could earn as much as \$50 million.

McIlroy said money is "cheap." "Money is the easy part," McIlroy said. "It shouldn't be the driving factor. Look, for some people it is. And we're professional golfers and we're out here playing golf to make a living. But at the end of the day, I value my freedom and my autonomy over everything else."

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan sent a memo to players last month that effectively said that because the tour has contracts with title sponsors for a full schedule and television partners, anyone joining the Premier Golf League would have to give

up their PGA Tour memberships.

The Premier Golf League's schedule would not include the majors. And still to be determined is if the Official World Golf Ranking board – represented by major tours and golf organizations – would allow the league to get ranking points. The world ranking is used to help determine the field for majors.

For someone like Woods – the biggest draw in golf – to play in the new league, he might be required to play as often as 22 times a year if the league has an 18-tournament schedule.

"Tiger is 44. He's got two young kids," McIlroy said. "He openly said last week he wants to play 12 times a year, so this league is proposing 18. So he's not going to do it." AP

Mourinho bristles at 'out of line' query after loss

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho said Tottenham Hotspur are still alive in the Champions League despite his side being outplayed by RB Leipzig in their 1-0 loss in the first leg of the last-16 tie on Wednesday.

In a tense post-match news conference in which Mourinho said a reporter's question was "out of line," the Portuguese manager remained defiant regarding his side's chances to come back.

The illustrious Portuguese was eclipsed by Leipzig's fresh-faced young coach Julian Nagelsmann and the one surprise was that the visitors' only reward for a dominant display was Timo Werner's 58th-minute penalty.

"1-0 is 1-0, it's not 10-0. The result is open. It's as simple as that," Mourinho told reporters. "We won't be the first team to lose 1-0 at home and win the tie away."

When asked whether Spurs played poorly or Leipzig were good, Mourinho retorted with: "You think we were bad?"

When reminded that Spurs lost, Mourinho snapped back: "I'm not going to answer you because I don't like your question and I think your question is out of order."

Leipzig will need no reminding that Tottenham produced some stunning away displays last season to reach the final, most notably when they lost to Ajax Amsterdam 1-0 at home in the semi-final and trailed 2-0 away before winning 3-2.

But Tottenham have regressed since and Mourinho's task has not been helped by injuries which deprived him of both leading strikers Harry Kane and Son Heung-min and midfield powerhouse Moussa Sissoko against Leipzig.

They struggled to cope with the high-energy pressing game that is the trademark of young coach Nagelsmann, once described during his impressive tenure at Hoffenheim as the "mini Mourinho" -- and but for keeper Hugo Lloris

Spurs would have suffered a more damaging scoreline.

"We are in a very difficult situation. I'm so proud of the players and what worries me is this is the situation for the rest of the season," Mourinho said.

"But speaking about the next game against Leipzig, I can guarantee we are going there to fight to our limits."

Nagelsmann said his side's failure to convert more of their 16 goal attempts (compared to Tottenham's 11) left the second leg on March 10 "complicated" and he will fully respect the vast experience Mourinho has in such situations.

Mourinho became only the fourth manager to take charge of 150 Champions League games on Wednesday, but Nagelsmann, who also took Hoffenheim into the competition, has steered Leipzig to within a point of Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich.

He said his youthful and dynamic side will offer up more of the same high intensity football.

"In the second leg, we will do it, I promise you, in the same way," he said.

"We always try to attack the opponents very early and try to win the ball high up in their half. Today, in the second half, we tried to create a bit more on the counter."

"The first half was very good. We created three or four chances after two minutes. After the goal it wasn't that easy to find spaces and create chances. It was a good game. We had good control, good ball possession."

A frustrating night for Tottenham was laid bare when Mourinho substituted Dele Alli after 64 minutes and the England midfielder responded by hurling his boot in anger.

"I think he was angry with his performance. Not with me. I think he understands why I took him off and the team improved," Mourinho said.

(Agencies)

Guardiola warns Barca chief over City ban remarks

LONDON

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola took aim at the president of his former club Barcelona on Wednesday over comments he had made following UEFA's two-year European ban imposed on the English champions.

City are appealing against UEFA's sanction, imposed after they ruled the Premier League club had made "serious breaches" of Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu commented: "I would like to thank UEFA regarding FFP, they've been doing fantastic work in the last couple of years."

"We have regular investigations and we have supported UEFA in everything it does in football."

Asked about the comments after City's 2-0 win over West Ham, Guardiola, a Barca title winner as player and coach, said: "If they are happy we are suspended, I say to the president of Barcelona, let us appeal."

"The people [at City] right now trust what they have done so that is what we are going to do. We're going to appeal and maybe it happens, but don't talk too loud, Barcelona."

"That is my advice because everybody is involved sometimes in situations. We are going to appeal and hopefully in the future we can play in the Champions League against Barcelona."

Guardiola also ruled out leaving the club, despite the two-year ban from European football handed out by UEFA.

"Why should I leave? I said a month ago, I love this club, I like to be here. Why should I leave?" Guardiola said.

"We spoke with the players, in the next three months we will focus on

what we have to do and after we will see the sentence. Personally, I will be here.

"I want to stay to continue to help the club and maintain this level as long as possible," the Spaniard added.

City are appealing against the ban to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland and the club's hierarchy have insisted they have done no wrong and will prevail.

"It is so sensitive with the legal [aspect] that I am not the person to talk about that," Guardiola said, when asked about the case.

"I know a little bit the reasons why and I support the club 100 percent. I trust what they told me and that is what I can say."

"When someone believes he is right, he is going to fight to the end and that is what we are going to do. It is an incredible thing to fight for our people who support this club and we are going to do it. As a club, a team, we are going to do it."

Guardiola has won two Premier League titles at City. His side are set to play Real Madrid in the last 16 of the Champions League and lie second in the domestic standings, 22 points behind Liverpool.

The former Barcelona manager said he had discussed with his players the right approach to take to the rest of the campaign, in light of the legal moves.

"We have a deal, we are professional on the pitch, what happened of the pitch we cannot say we cannot do much," Guardiola said.

"So we talked about what we were going to do until the end of the season what we have to do, especially for the people who love this club, there are many, and that is going to happen."

"So play our games as best as possible."

(Agencies)

Mourinho's negativity doomed Spurs for failure in Leipzig defeat

LONDON

ON Wednesday at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, we saw a team show glimpses of the old Tottenham Hotspur, the young, vibrant side that thrilled everyone under Mauricio Pochettino and came so close to a couple of improbable title wins.

The problem was that team was RB Leipzig.

Tottenham will go into the second leg of this Champions League knockout tie with a fighting chance, only 1-0 down when it could have been so much worse. They might try to convince themselves that in the absence of their two most potent attackers, Harry Kane and Son Heung-min, and against an in-form team pushing Bayern Munich for the Bundesliga title, this was a decent result and performance.

In truth, they were lucky to get away with just that one-goal deficit. It could have been three or four in the first 20 minutes alone, when Leipzig had 10 shots to Tottenham's one, only the German side didn't take the chances they created. Afterward, head coach Julian Nagelsmann expressed mild irritation that the scoreline didn't reflect Leipzig's dominance more accurately, with the only goal coming from a second-half Timo Werner penalty. "We should have scored more than one," he said. "Sometimes young teams get frustrated and impatient [when they don't score immediately]."

The concern for Tottenham is that this is far from the first time that has happened to them under Jose Mourinho: Sooner or later, their tactic of "hoping the opposition misses all their chances, and then we'll nick one" was going to backfire. That's a little reductive, perhaps, but it isn't the worst broad summary of how they got victories in their past two Premier League



RB Leipzig's Timo Werner scores their first goal from the penalty spot during their Champions League - Round of 16 First Leg match against Tottenham Hotspur at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, Britain on Wednesday. Reuters

games, against Manchester City and Aston Villa. Of course, they were significantly hampered by Kane and Son being injured here, but there is some middle ground between that impacting their play and the idea that it was absolutely impossible to compete with Leipzig.

The real objection to this performance was not that Tottenham didn't create many chances but that they barely tried to. They lacked any sort of ambition, creativity eschewed in favour of rather hopeful long passes aimed downfield, in the vague hope that one of their makeshift forwards would make something of it. That in itself presents a curious logic: When your attackers aren't as good as usual, why make it more difficult for them by not trying to create chances?

"We are in a very difficult situation," Mourinho said after listing the assorted fitness problems within his squad, as if he were a military leader scrolling through the number of casualties his men had suffered in some bloody battle. "What worries me is this is going to be the situation until the end of the season. The

situation is going to be exactly the same, so I'm so, so proud of the players."

What should be most frustrating is that Tottenham showed they could compete in the closing stages, after Tanguy Ndombele and Erik Lamela came on and changed the impetus of the game entirely. Lamela, as Mourinho was extremely keen to make clear afterward, might not have been 100 percent fit, but those last 20 minutes or so, when Tottenham chose to play like a home side rather than a Tony Pulis cypher, were basically Spurs saying, "This is how we could have played, but we chose not to."

The words of Mourinho's captain, goalkeeper Hugo Lloris, indicated that this isn't just a conclusion reached from the stands. "I want to stay positive, especially after the last 20 minutes. Obviously, if we started the game in the same way, the score would be different."

The truth is that Tottenham, as a club, are entirely to blame for this performance. Firstly, for appointing Mourinho at all because if they didn't know they were going to get an

approach like this in big games, then they haven't been paying attention the past few years. But they did know. They just decided it was worth it if Mourinho could get them winning.

Secondly, they are to blame for not signing a striker in January, the most obvious consequence being that if Kane and Son are out of action, they'll be forced to bodge together an attack, on this occasion starting with Dele Alli and Lucas Moura up front in a sort of 4-4-2 system, presumably with the logic that if you don't have a striker, you might be able to make one out of two midfielders. This decision to not sign a striker also gives Mourinho licence to play the "poor, old me" act, to shrug his shoulders and say there's nothing else he could've done, whether that's true or not.

That was the vibe of his postmatch news conference, emphasising not only the injuries that his team have suffered but also how tired his players are. All of which is getting pretty tiresome, particularly his insistence that he would love to "go to July 1" with all of his squad fit. It's obvious what he's doing -- presenting the rest of the season as a lost cause so that anything above that makes him look like a genius -- but it doesn't make it any more palatable.

Mourinho rejected the premise of a question that suggested his team had played badly, not only refusing to answer it but also picking out the questioner on his way out of the news conference, sarcastically saying "great question, mate." And some people thought he had changed.

Of course, this tie is a long way from being over. "1-0 is 1-0. It's not 10-0," Mourinho said, quite reasonably. "The result is open. It's as simple as that."

He's right. It is open. But if they play like this again in the return, it probably won't be for long.

(Agencies)

Atalanta thrash Valencia on night to 'remember forever'

MILAN

ATALANTA coach Gian Piero Gasperini hailed a performance his club will "remember forever" after the Italian side crushed Valencia 4-1 on Wednesday to take a giant step closer to reaching the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time.

Dutch wing-back Hans Hateboer scored twice on 16 and 62 minutes, sandwiching goals from Josip Ilicic and Remo Freuler.

"This is an evening that we'll remember forever," said Gasperini. "It's an amazing result, full of emotion."

It was an extraordinary night for the side from Bergamo who travelled to the San Siro with over 40,000 of their fans as their home stadium 55km away does not meet UEFA regulations.

Denis Cheryshev pulled one back for Valencia in the first leg of the last-16 tie at the San Siro, the same stadium where the Spanish side lost the 2001 final to Bayern Munich on penalties.

Valencia, seventh in La Liga, had finished top of their group after away wins over Ajax and Chelsea but were missing several key players through injury and suspension.

"It certainly complicates things a bit, it's a pretty overwhelming result, this 4-1," said Valencia coach Albert Celades.

"In the end it doesn't reflect much what we saw on the pitch."

Atalanta's run comes despite losing their opening three Champions League group games, before finishing second behind Manchester City.

"Three goals ahead is a nice reward," added Gasperini. "But there were a lot of dangerous situations, these are things we'll need to improve in Valencia."

"We are satisfied with this victory and above all with this advantage."

"Yesterday I would have signed to go to Valencia in the return game with a three-goal lead."

The tournament debutants dominated the first half with Mario Pasalic having their first chance on eight minutes, but Valencia goalkeeper Jaime Domenech pushed



Atalanta's Remo Freuler scores their third goal past Valencia's Jaime Domenech during their Champions League - Round of 16 First Leg match at San Siro in Milan, Italy on Wednesday. REUTERS

the ball over the bar at full stretch.

Hateboer opened the scoring just after quarter of an hour, though, meeting a low Gomez cross to poke past

Domenech for his first goal of the season.

Ferran Torres struck the post for Valencia on the half-hour mark, before Eliaquim Mangala missed a chance to

connect with Goncalo Guedes' shot across the face of goal.

Marten de Roon and Gomez both fired over before Ilicic collected Pasalic's pass and drilled

a powerful right-footed strike into the top corner three minutes before half-time.

- 'Clear result' -

Gasperini's side put the result on the night beyond any doubt 12 minutes after the break as Freuler curled in a magnificent third from the edge of the box.

Hateboer completed his brace five minutes later, ensuring that Atalanta's 12 goals in their first Champions League campaign have been scored by 10 different players.

Maxi Gomez had a golden chance to pull a goal back on the hour mark for the visitors but his weak effort was brilliantly saved by Pierluigi Gollini in the Atalanta goal.

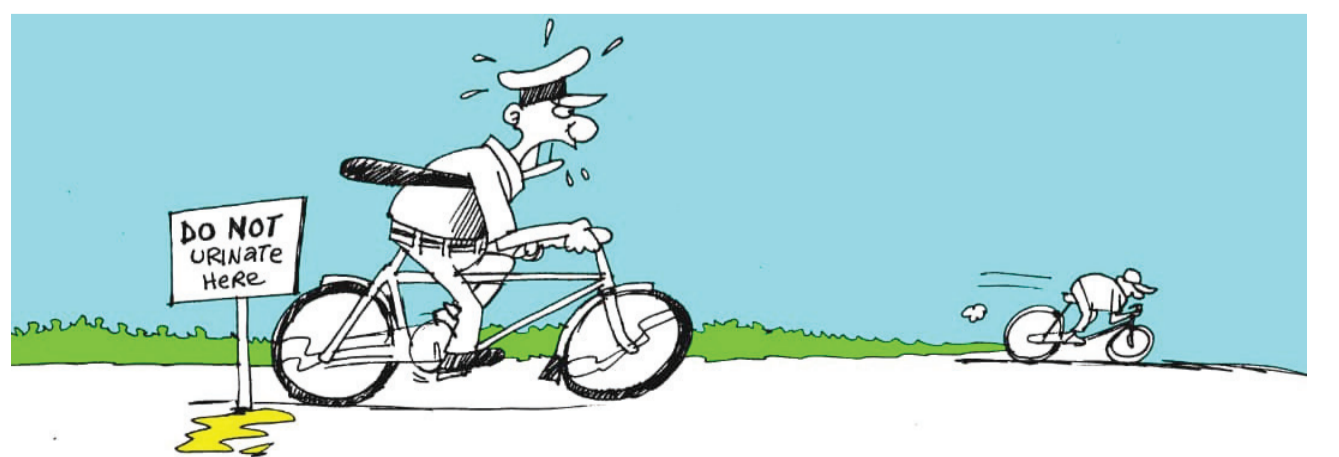
Cheryshev came off the bench and immediately scored in the 66th minute, pouncing on a poor Jose Luis Palomino pass to give Valencia an away goal and a glimmer of hope to take into the second leg on March 10 at the Metastalla.

"We had opportunities and we didn't finish them," said Celades.

"The result is clear enough today, but it's not impossible (to turn around). Let's see what happens at Metastalla, let's play well in our stadium."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mourinho's negativity doomed Spurs for failure in Leipzig defeat

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Taliss-IST Club swimmer, Roos Nevelsteen, competes during a past event which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Swimmers set for Taliss-IST championship

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

SWIMMERS from nine clubs will have to sweat in order to compete in 105 swimming disciplines during the Taliss-IST championships to be held at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) Masaki in Dar es Salaam this weekend.

The event organizers, Taliss-IST swimming club, announced yesterday that participating swimmers will compete in 71 swimming disciplines in the first day (on Saturday) while the remaining disciplines will be contested on Sunday.

The event coordinator, Hadija Shebe, said apart from the individual disciplines in five styles, the swimmers would be entitled to compete in relays as well as in open events which feature swimmers of different age categories.

Hadija said it is not easy competition as their target is to gauge the swimmer's competence, development and talents in the event which has been sponsored by Jubilee Insurance, Nissan and Azam.

"We expect to have very exciting days in the event. We are serious as we want to see to it swimming moves to great heights in the country," she disclosed.

"Before that, we set the qualifying time that every swimmer had to meet, we are happy as many swimmers met the time standard."

The competition will feature 228 swimmers that will compete in five different styles and relays including backstroke, butterfly, Individual Medley, breaststroke and freestyle.

The clubs with their swimmers in brackets are Taliss-IST (78), Bluefins (39) and the Dar es Salaam Swimming Club (DSC) which will field 31 swimmers.

Other clubs are Morogoro International School (MIS) Piranhas (27), International School of Zanzibar, alias Wahoo (6), FK Blue Marlins (25), Braeburn (9), Wahoo (6) and United World College East Africa (UWCEA) that will be represented by 13 swimmers.

This is the second swimming event as per Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) calendar.

The first event was organized by Morogoro International School (MIS).

The swimmers will compete in various events categorized according to age. Age categories for swimmers, both boys and girls, in the event will be for Under-eight, 9 and 10, 11 and 12, 13 and 14 and 15 and above.

The event will see the country's top-ranked swimmers compete with swimmers from other clubs in the country. Hadija said they are now in intensive preparations ahead of the event aimed at promoting the game in the country.

"The event has been organized in order to make all swimmers busy and maintain their standards in the game," the official said.

She noted awards will be presented to swimmers finishing in the first three positions in each event.

Dar boxer to feature in Olympic qualifiers today

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's amateur boxer Alex Kisimbi will be in action today at the ongoing 2020 Olympic qualifiers in Dakar, Senegal.

The East Africa country is represented by four boxers at the qualifiers which has 221 boxers from 39 African countries.

Open Boxing Federation of Tanzania (OBFT) secretary general, Lukelo Wililo, said Kisimbi, fighting in Lightweight division, will this evening face Libyan Farhat Almonsori.

Wililo said he is confident that Kisimbi will emerge the winner in the fight.

He said on Saturday evening the national team's two boxers Boniface Mligwa Kaji and Haruna Swanga will

take the ring to trade punches with opponents from Angola and Ghana.

Mligwa will face Angolan fighter Manuel Pedro in Featherweight division while Super Heavyweight boxer Haruna Mhando Swanga will be up against Ghanaian Kastuke Amani.

Wililo said on Monday afternoon, national team's Light Heavyweight boxer Yusufu Changarawe will fight against Mauricio Martins from Guinea Bissau.

"I'm confident our boxers will do well at the African qualifiers and hopefully qualify for Tokyo Olympics," he disclosed.

"I have said so as all the boxers have assured me of fighting for the pride of their country, they know the importance of this Senegal event to them and their country," he said.

David Yomba Yomba is national team's head coach and Samuel Mwera is the leader of delegation.

The Senegal event will come to an end on Saturday next week.

The Olympic qualifiers will be the last boxing qualifying event to be held in Africa.

The other one will take place in France in May at the Grand Dôme, Villebon-sur-Yvette.

The final World event in Paris will give athletes a second chance to qualify for the 2020 Olympics.

The Olympic qualifiers will therefore be open only to those boxers who have not yet qualified from the continental events making it difficult for many boxers including those from Tanzania to qualify.



Tanzania's amateur boxers trade punches in a past national championship, which took place in Dar es salaam.

5 EATV FRIDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SLEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

India return to Australia to take the next big step

SYDNEY

WITHIN hours of announcing her retirement from T20Is in September last year, Mithali Raj picked India's 2016 T20I series win away against Australia as "the point when things started to roll for the Indian team". That 2-1 win marked India's first bilateral series victory over Australia across formats.

The enormity of that result, also India's first win in a T20I series outside the subcontinent, cannot be overstated. Australia had won three T20 World Cups in the lead-in to that season, and were eyeing a "four-peat" in India in two months' time. India, meanwhile, were touring Australia after seven years, and had only five players - Jhulan Goswami, Punam Raut, Harmanpreet Kaur, Thirush Kamini and Raj - in their 15-member T20I squad with any prior experience of playing in Australia.

To many followers of the game, India's win against Australia in the 2017 ODI World Cup semi-final is the highest point in Indian women's cricket. To Raj, as with many others who featured in the 2017 win as well as the tour of Australia the previous year, that T20I series victory remains the barometer by which India judge their ability to marry potential with fearlessness.

In the four years since, India haven't been to the MCG, and both Goswami and Raj, two of India's most experienced players, have bowed out of T20Is. Now, at the 2020 T20 World Cup, the MCG will host the final of the tournament, meaning India have an opportunity to play there for the first time since that watershed 2016 tour - in their first 20-over world tournament with both Goswami and Raj absent.

The first, and potentially stiffest, challenge in India's road to the MCG, and their pursuit of a maiden world title, comes in the form of a rival that has given them two of their sweetest victories ever. Much of how their league-stage campaign goes will be determined by the outcome of the tournament opener against Australia, and also give us an idea of whether captain Harmanpreet's hopes of playing Australia in the final on March 8 - "if we play Australia, that [the record of 90,000 spectators] will be easily possible" - could come true or not.

India may take heart from the fact that seven players from the 2016 T20I series win are part of their World Cup squad and that they are the only side to have beaten Australia once in both the two latest world tournaments (in the 2017 World Cup semi-final and in the league stage of the 2018 T20 World Cup). However, overcoming them on Friday will require resilience that appears to be lacking among most of their batters.

In their most recent meeting, in the final of the tri-series, India squandered a strong start from opener Smriti Mandhana because of yet another middle-order collapse, a long-standing issue that the team hasn't been able to solve despite the appointment of head coach WV Raman in December 2018.

AGENCIES

Flexibles by David Chikoko

